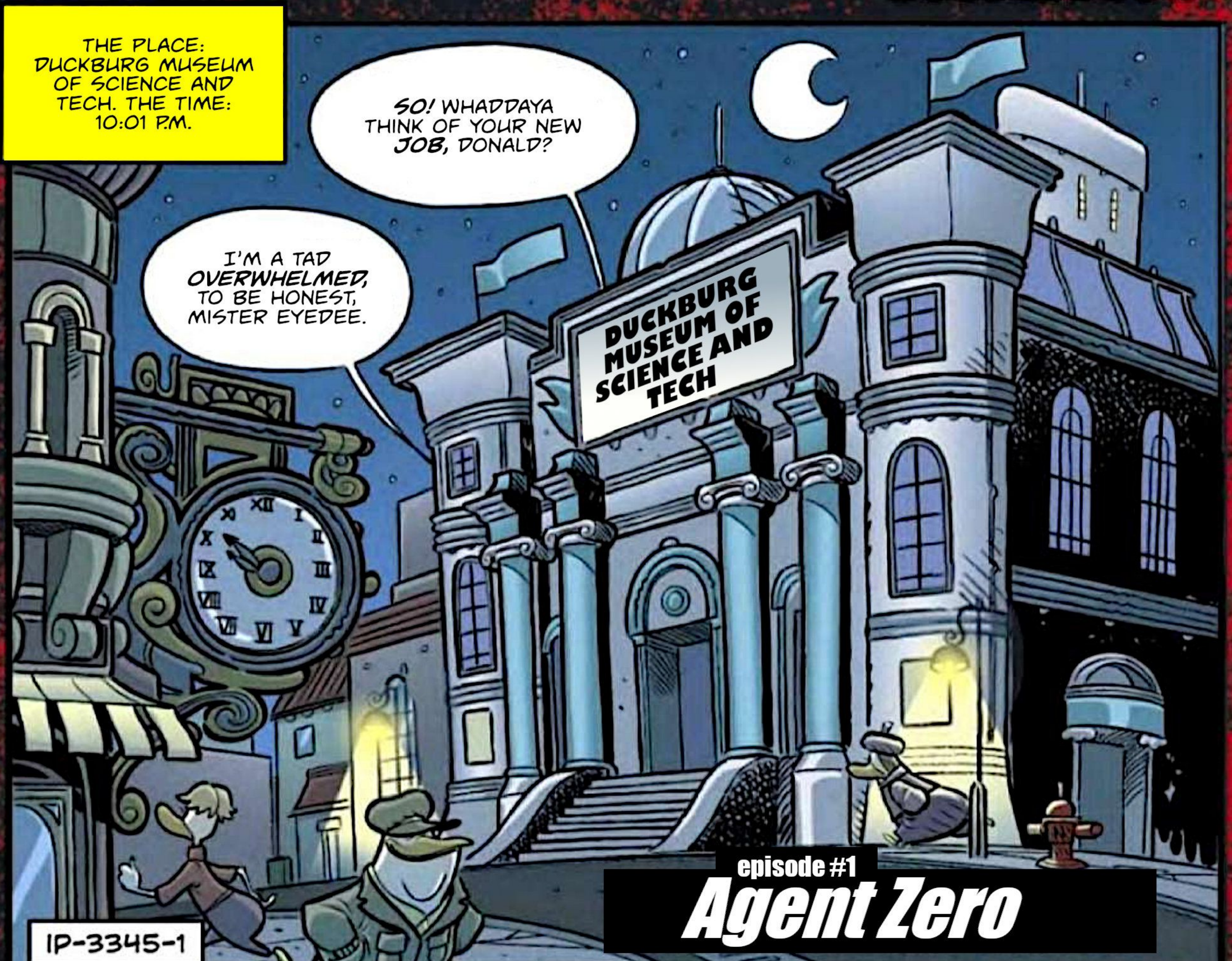
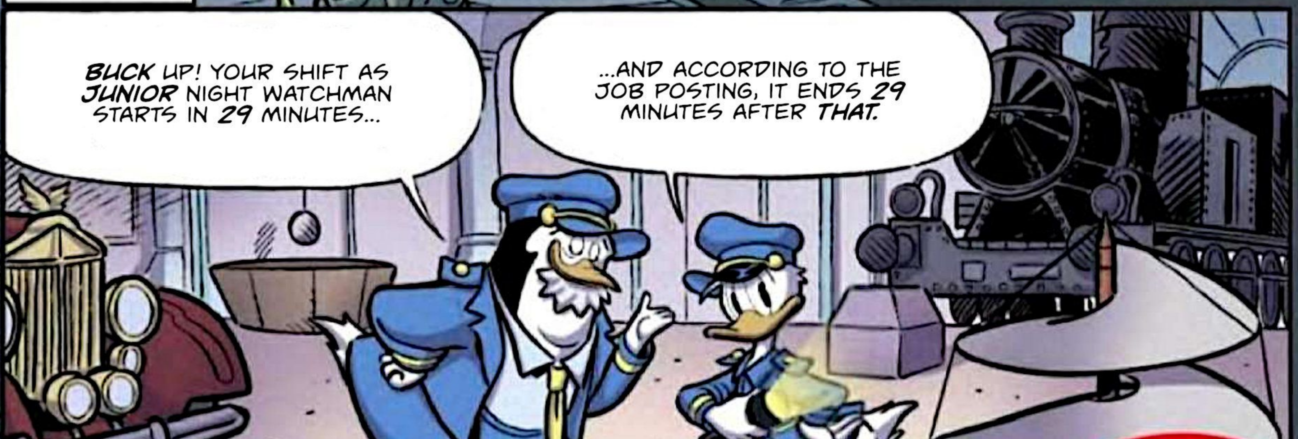
SHORT CIRCUIT

DOUBLEDUCK

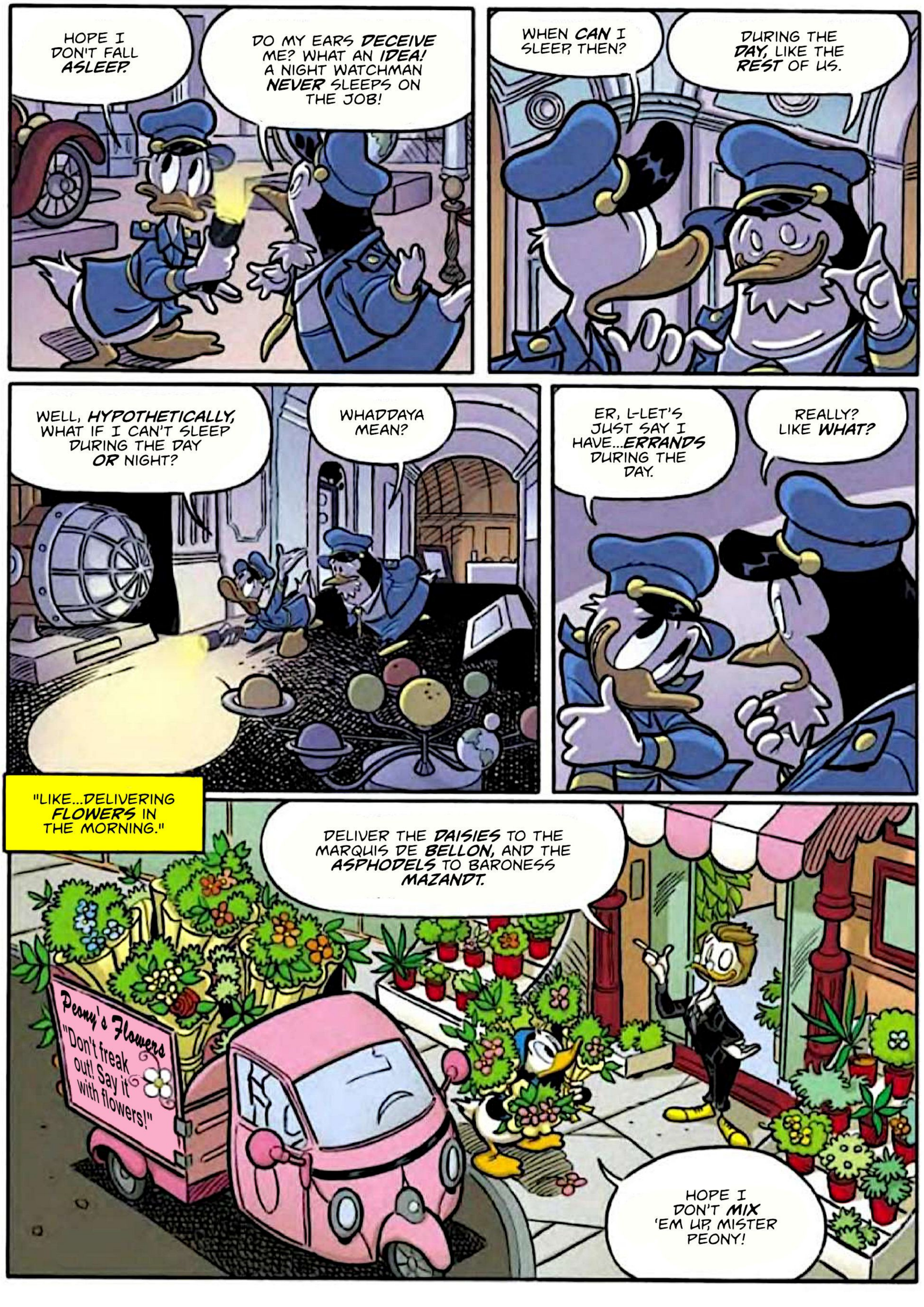

THE PLACE: DUCKBURG MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECH. THE TIME: 10:01 P.M.
SO! WHADDAYA THINK OF YOUR NEW JOB, DONALD?
I'M A TAD OVERWHELMED, TO BE HONEST, MISTER EYEDEE.
DUCKBURG MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECH
IP-3345-1

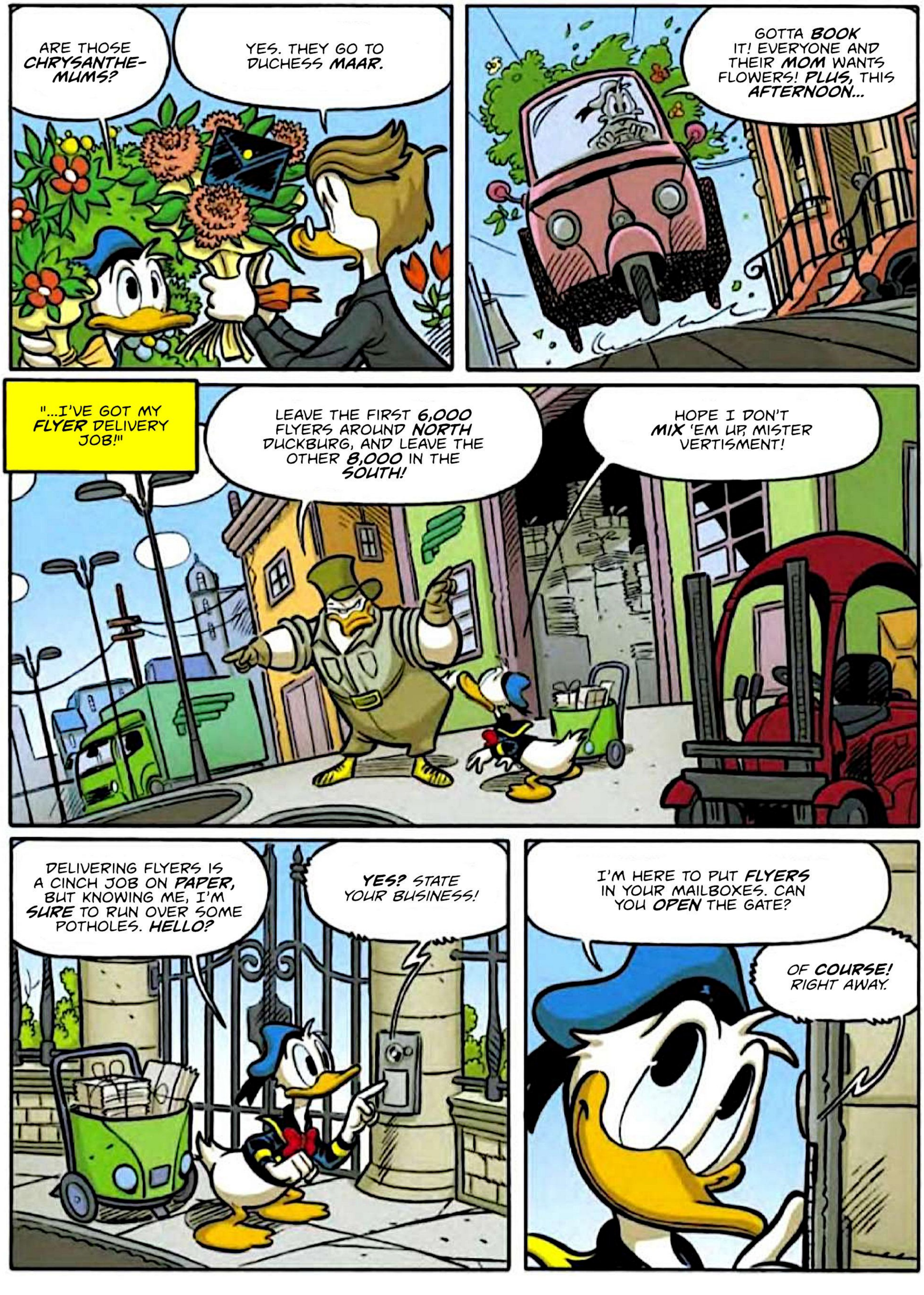
episode #1

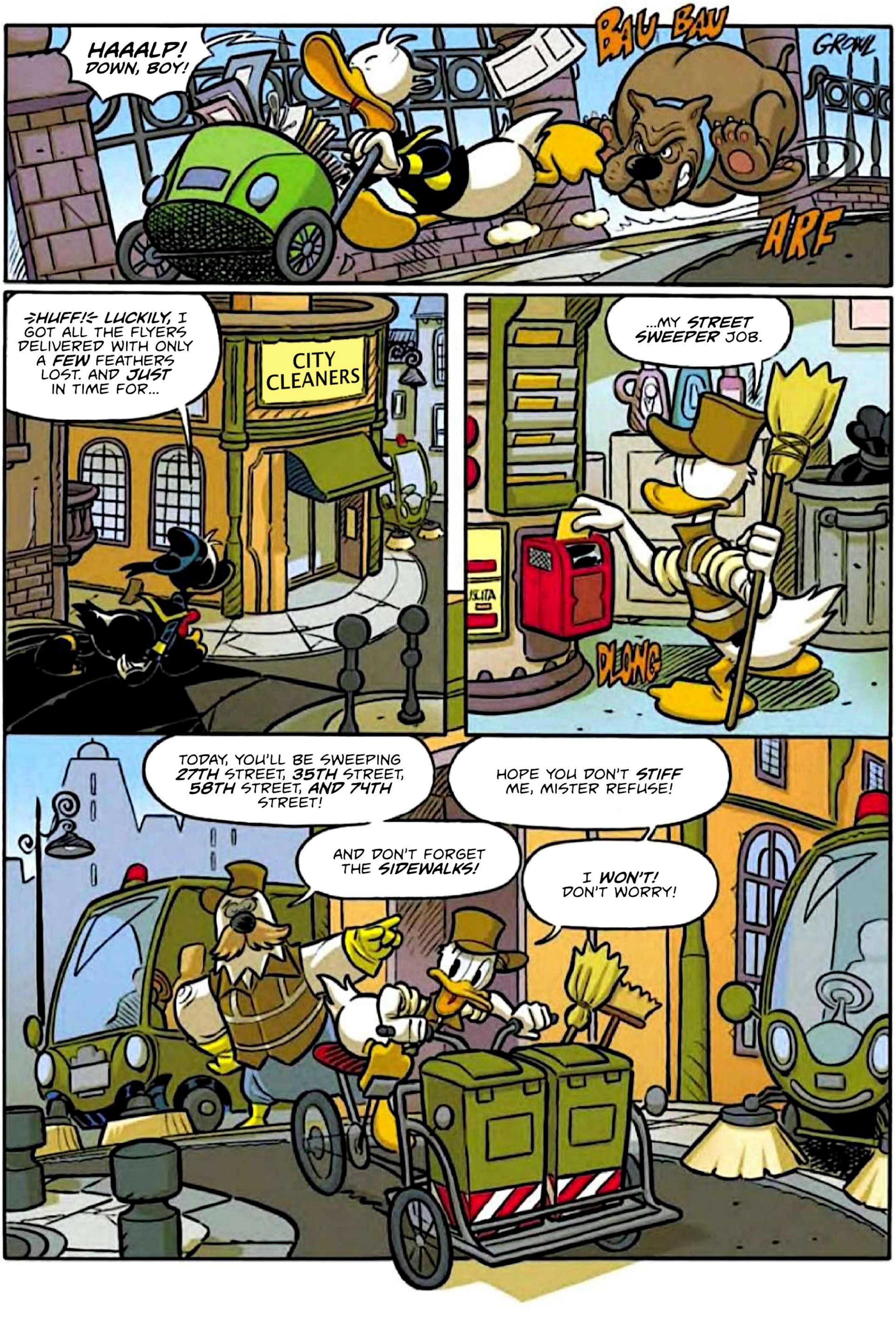
Agent Zero

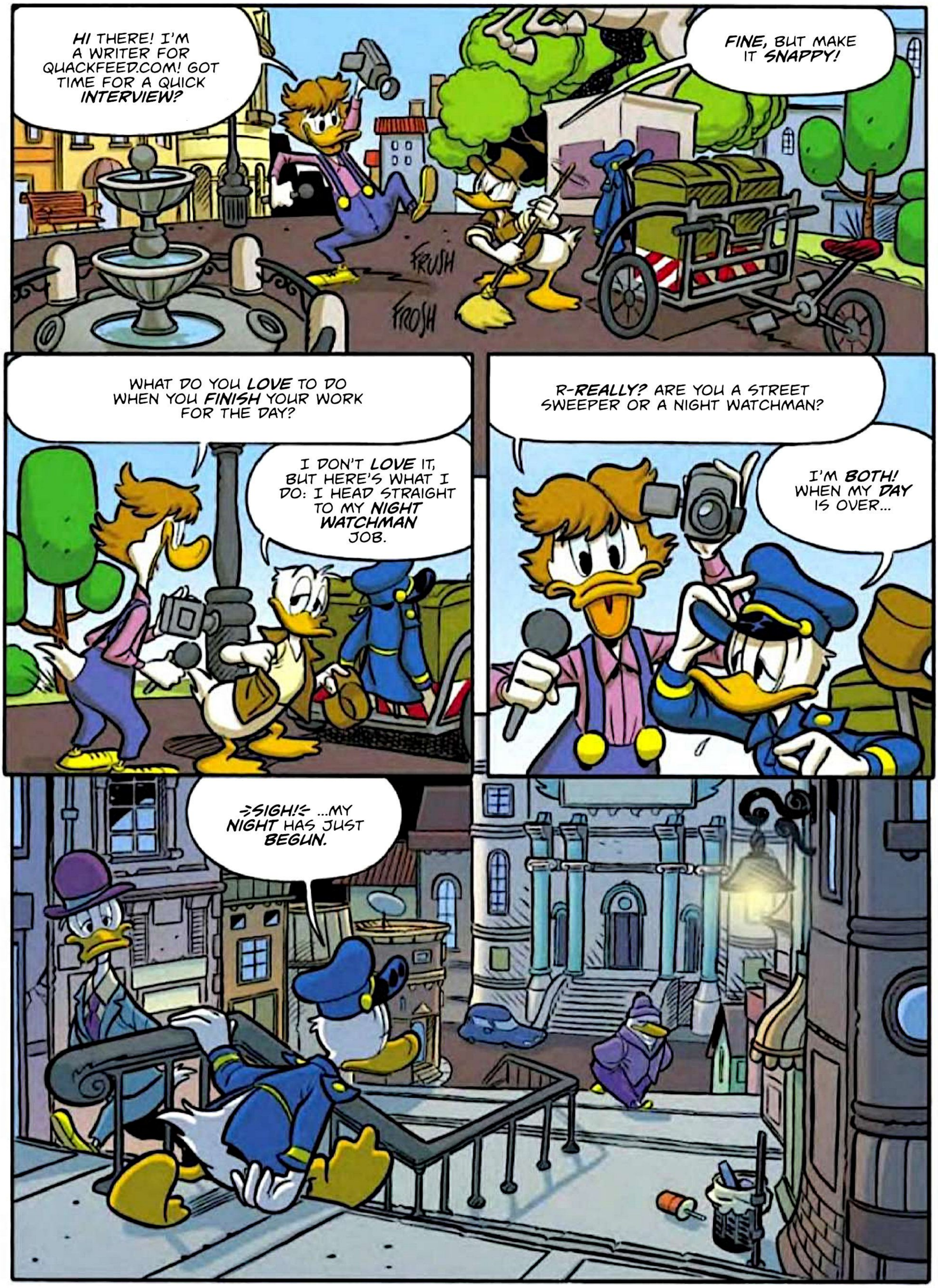

BUCK UP! YOUR SHIFT AS JUNIOR NIGHT WATCHMAN STARTS IN 29 MINUTES...
...AND ACCORDING TO THE JOB POSTING, IT ENDS 29 MINUTES AFTER THAT.

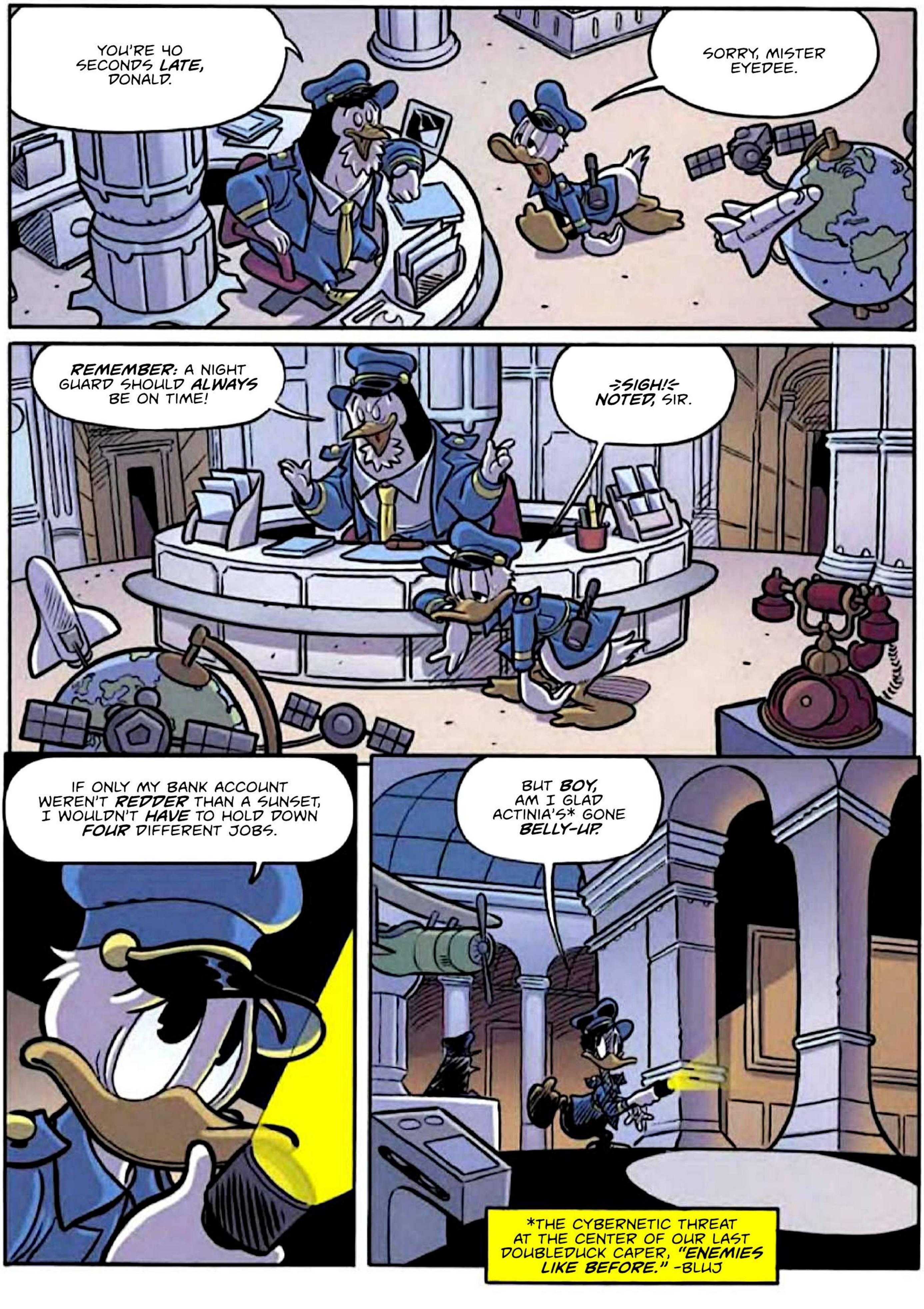
Written by **Fausto Vitaliano** | Art by **Stefano Zanchi** | Color by **Max Monteduro**
English Localization and Lettering by **AJTheBlueJay**

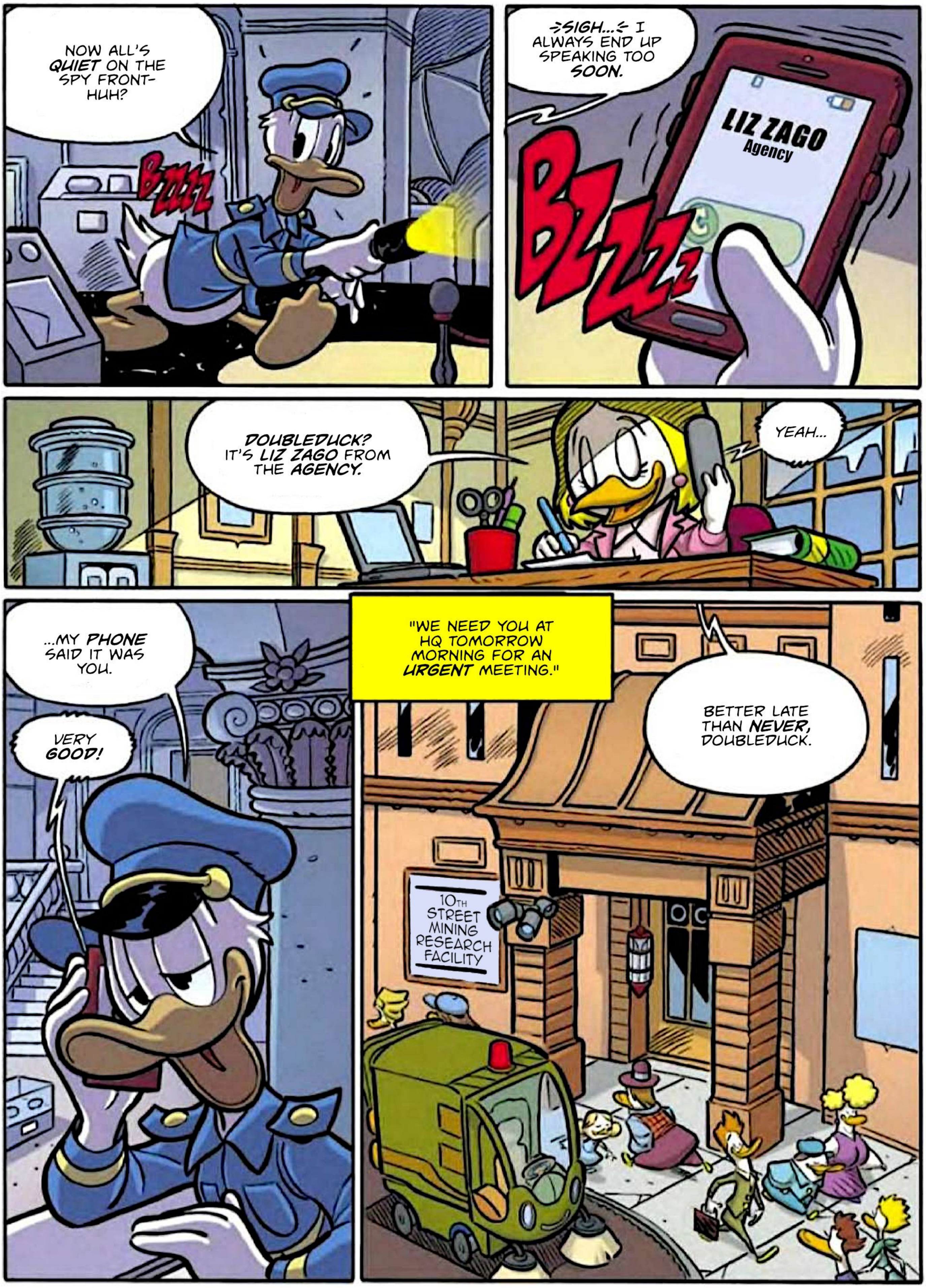

HOPE I DON'T FALL ASLEEP.
DO MY EARS DECEIVE ME? WHAT AN IDEA! A NIGHT WATCHMAN NEVER SLEEPS ON THE JOB!
WHEN CAN I SLEEP, THEN?
DURING THE DAY, LIKE THE REST OF US.
WELL, HYPOTHETICALLY, WHAT IF I CAN'T SLEEP DURING THE DAY OR NIGHT?
WHADDAYA MEAN?
ER, L-LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE...ERRANDS DURING THE DAY.
REALLY? LIKE WHAT?
"LIKE...DELIVERING FLOWERS IN THE MORNING."
DELIVER THE DAISIES TO THE MARQUIS DE BELLON, AND THE ASPHODELS TO BARONESS MAZANDT.
Peony's Flowers "Don't freak out! Say it with flowers!"
HOPE I DON'T MIX 'EM UP, MISTER PEONY!

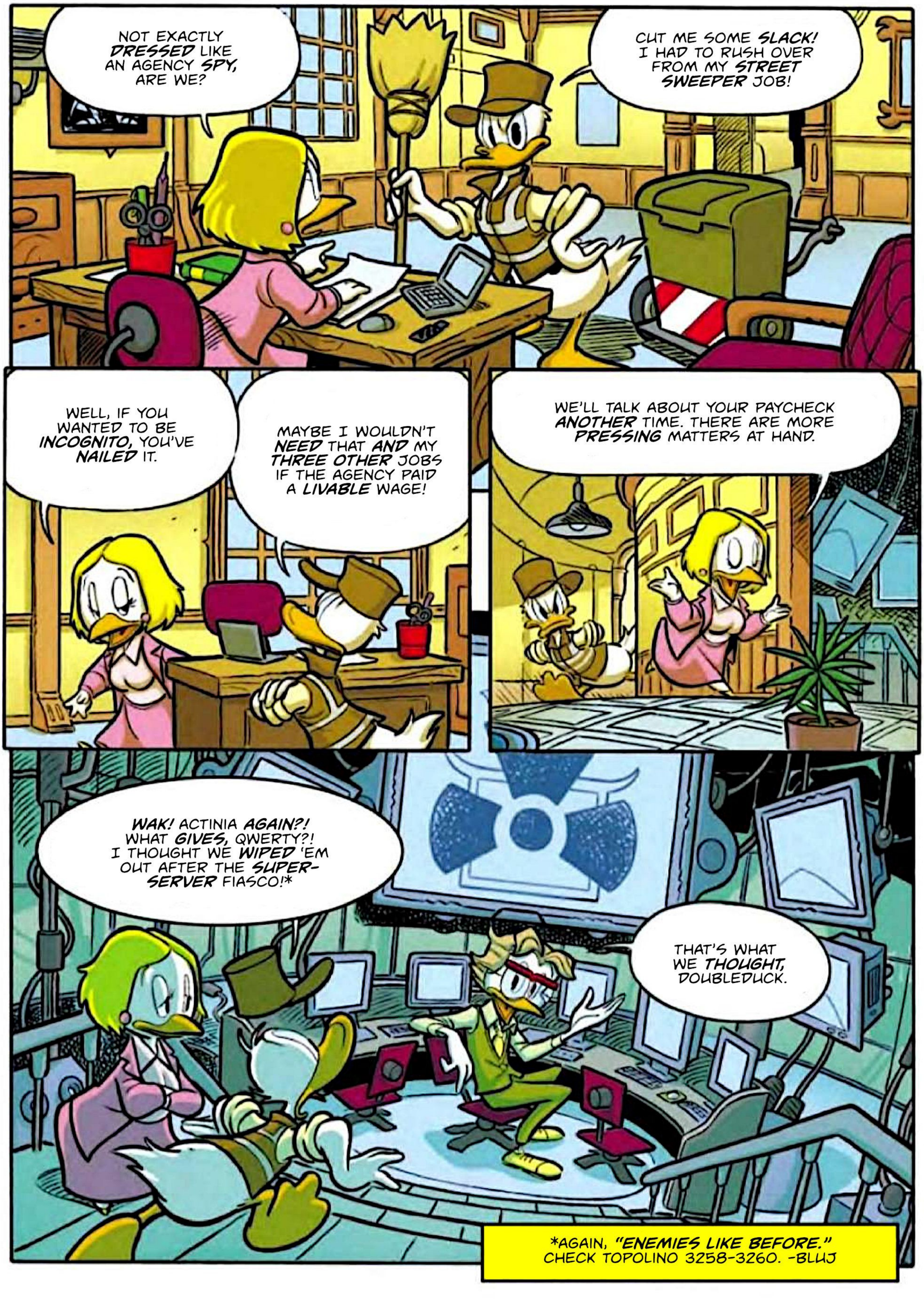

ARE THOSE **CHRYSANTHEMUMS?**
YES. THEY GO TO DUCHESS **MAAR.**
GOTTA **BOOK** IT! EVERYONE AND THEIR **MOM** WANTS FLOWERS! **PLUS,** THIS **AFTERNOON...**
"...I'VE GOT MY **FLYER** DELIVERY JOB!"
LEAVE THE FIRST **6,000** FLYERS AROUND **NORTH** DUCKBURG, AND LEAVE THE OTHER **8,000** IN THE **SOUTH!**
HOPE I DON'T **MIX** 'EM UP, MISTER VERTISMENT!
DELIVERING FLYERS IS A CINCH JOB ON **PAPER,** BUT KNOWING ME, I'M **SURE** TO RUN OVER SOME POTHOLES. **HELLO?**
YES? STATE YOUR BUSINESS!
I'M HERE TO PUT **FLYERS** IN YOUR MAILBOXES. CAN YOU **OPEN** THE GATE?
*OF **COURSE!** RIGHT AWAY.*

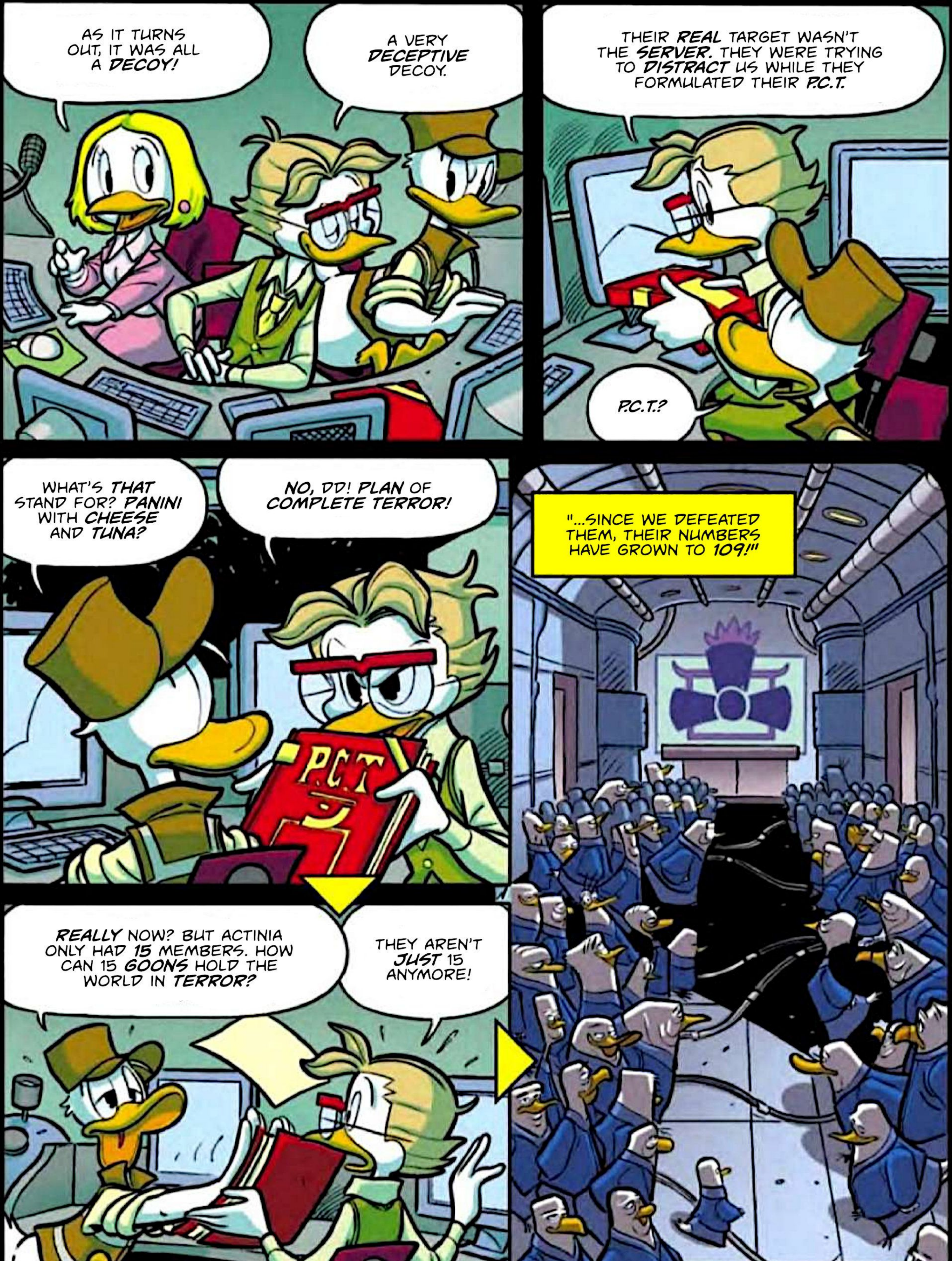

HAAALP! DOWN, BOY!
BAU BAU
GROWL
ARF
>HUFF!< LUCKILY, I GOT ALL THE FLYERS DELIVERED WITH ONLY A FEW FEATHERS LOST. AND JUST IN TIME FOR...
CITY CLEANERS
...MY STREET SWEEPER JOB.
DLONG
TODAY, YOU'LL BE SWEEPING 27TH STREET, 35TH STREET, 58TH STREET, AND 74TH STREET!
HOPE YOU DON'T STIFF ME, MISTER REFUSE!
AND DON'T FORGET THE SIDEWALKS!
I WON'T! DON'T WORRY!

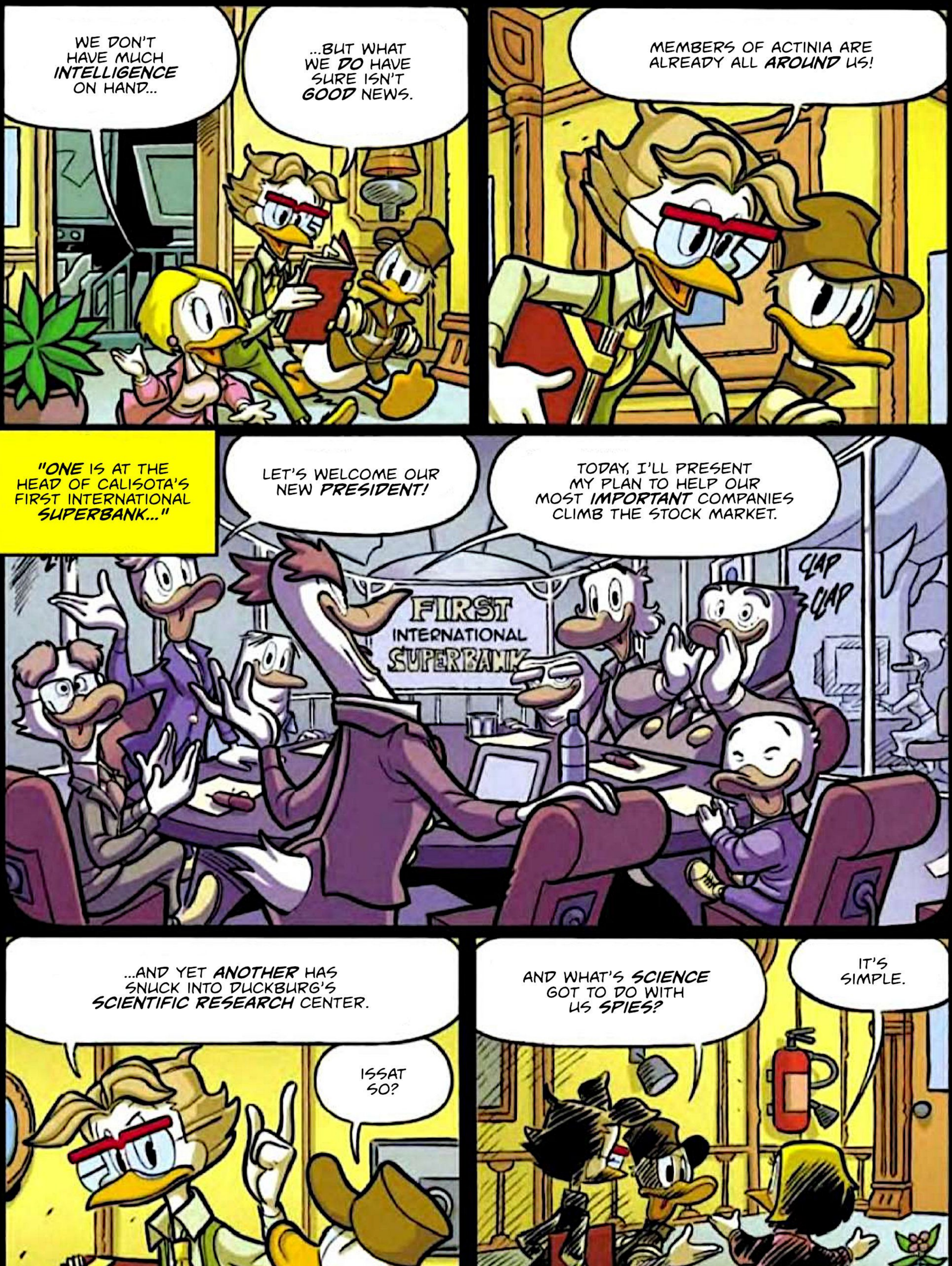

HI THERE! I'M A WRITER FOR QUACKFEED.COM! GOT TIME FOR A QUICK INTERVIEW?
FINE, BUT MAKE IT SNAPPY!
FRUSH
FROSH
WHAT DO YOU LOVE TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR WORK FOR THE DAY?
I DON'T LOVE IT, BUT HERE'S WHAT I DO: I HEAD STRAIGHT TO MY NIGHT WATCHMAN JOB.
R-REALLY? ARE YOU A STREET SWEEPER OR A NIGHT WATCHMAN?
I'M BOTH! WHEN MY DAY IS OVER...
⪢SIGH!⪡ ...MY NIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN.

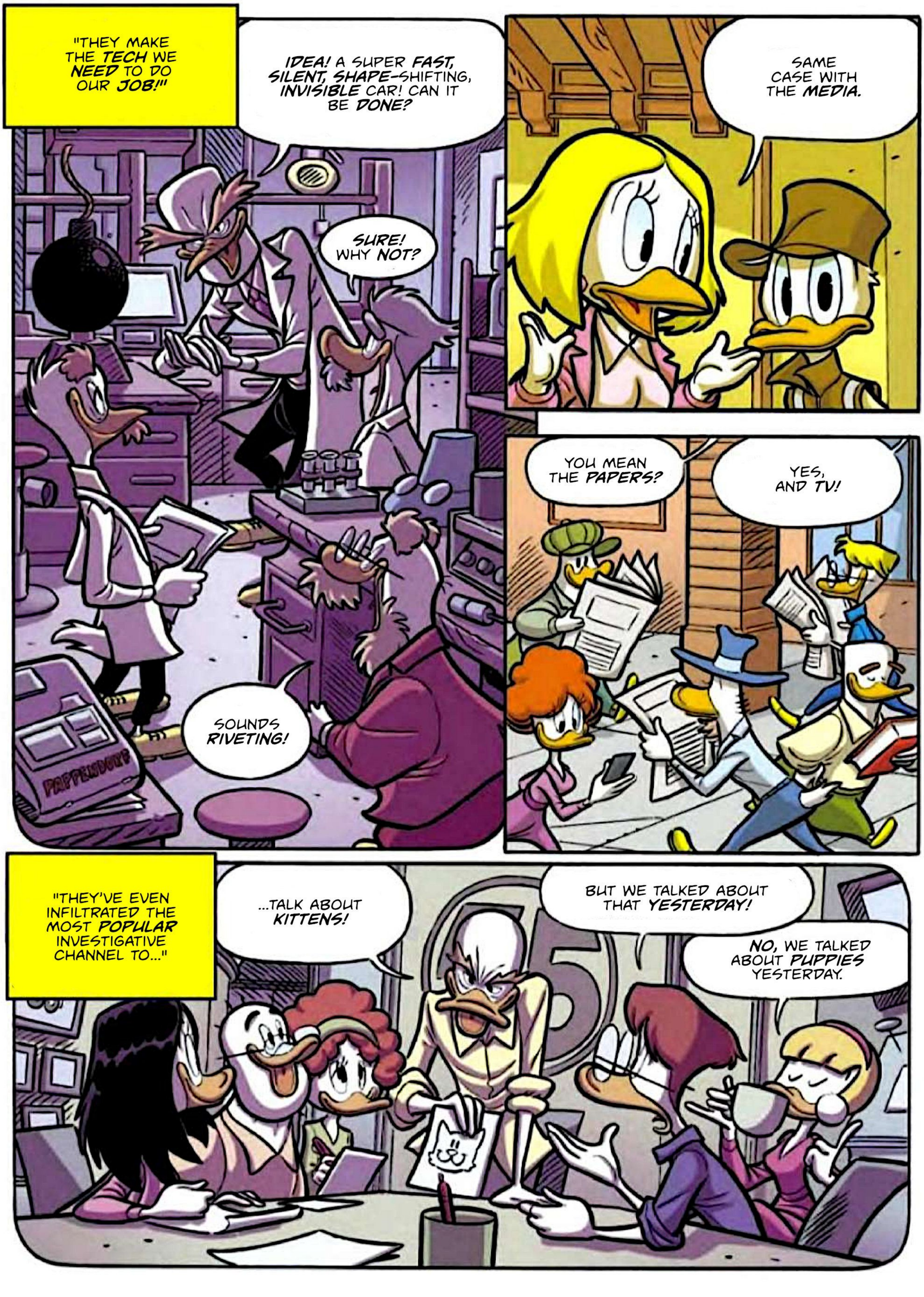

YOU'RE 40 SECONDS *LATE,* DONALD.
SORRY, MISTER EYEDEE.
REMEMBER: A NIGHT GUARD SHOULD *ALWAYS* BE ON TIME!
≥SIGH!≤ *NOTED,* SIR.
IF ONLY MY BANK ACCOUNT WEREN'T *REDDER* THAN A SUNSET, I WOULDN'T *HAVE* TO HOLD DOWN *FOUR* DIFFERENT JOBS.
BUT *BOY,* AM I GLAD ACTINIA'S* GONE *BELLY-UP.*
*THE CYBERNETIC THREAT AT THE CENTER OF OUR LAST DOUBLEDUCK CAPER, *"ENEMIES LIKE BEFORE."* -BLUJ

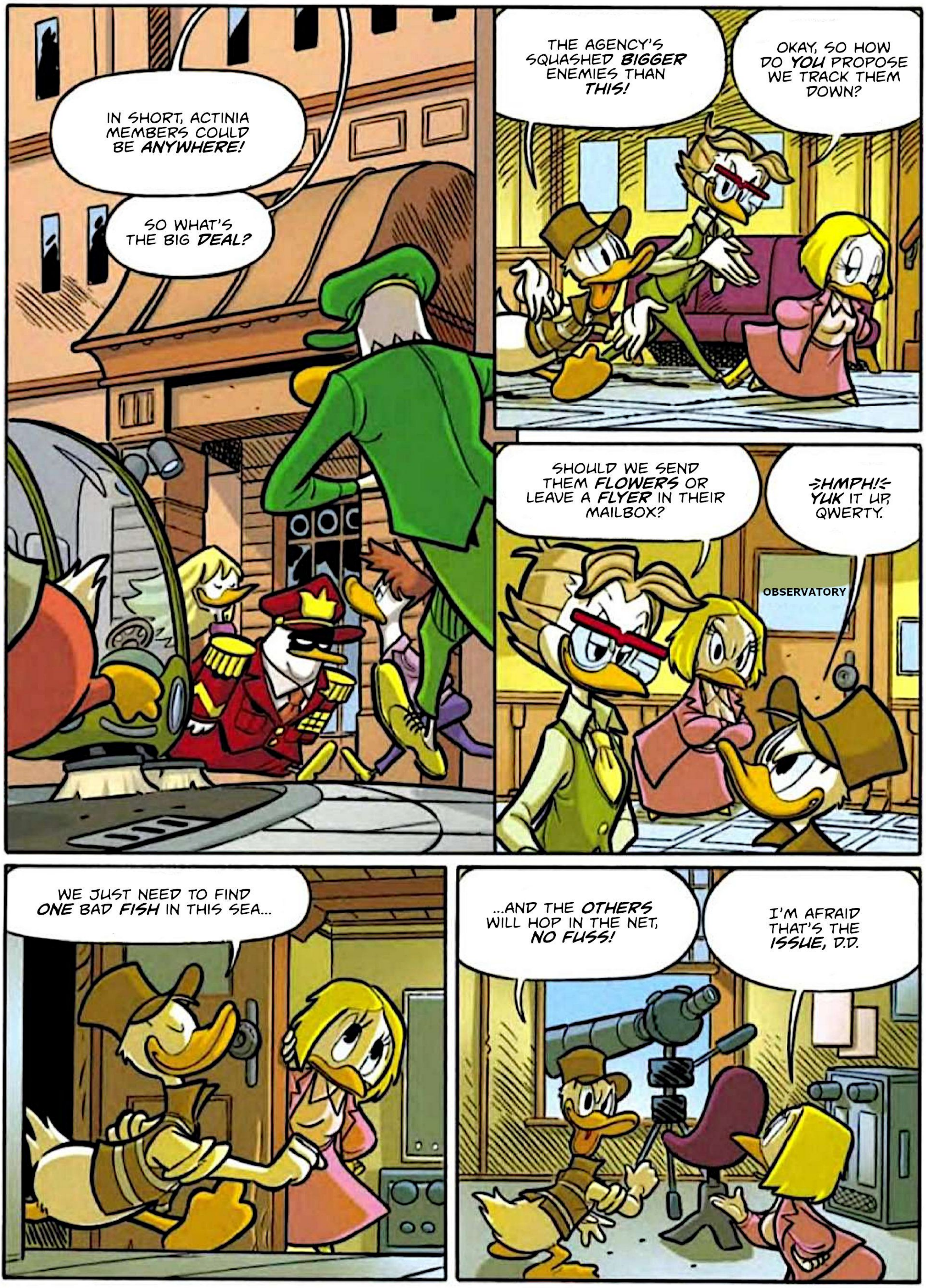

NOW ALL'S *QUIET* ON THE SPY FRONT— HUH?
BZZZZ
~SIGH...~ I ALWAYS END UP SPEAKING TOO *SOON.*
LIZ ZAGO Agency
BZZZZ
DOUBLEDUCK? IT'S *LIZ ZAGO* FROM THE *AGENCY.*
YEAH...
...MY *PHONE* SAID IT WAS YOU.
VERY GOOD!
"WE NEED YOU AT HQ TOMORROW MORNING FOR AN *URGENT* MEETING."
BETTER LATE THAN *NEVER,* DOUBLEDUCK.
10TH STREET MINING RESEARCH FACILITY

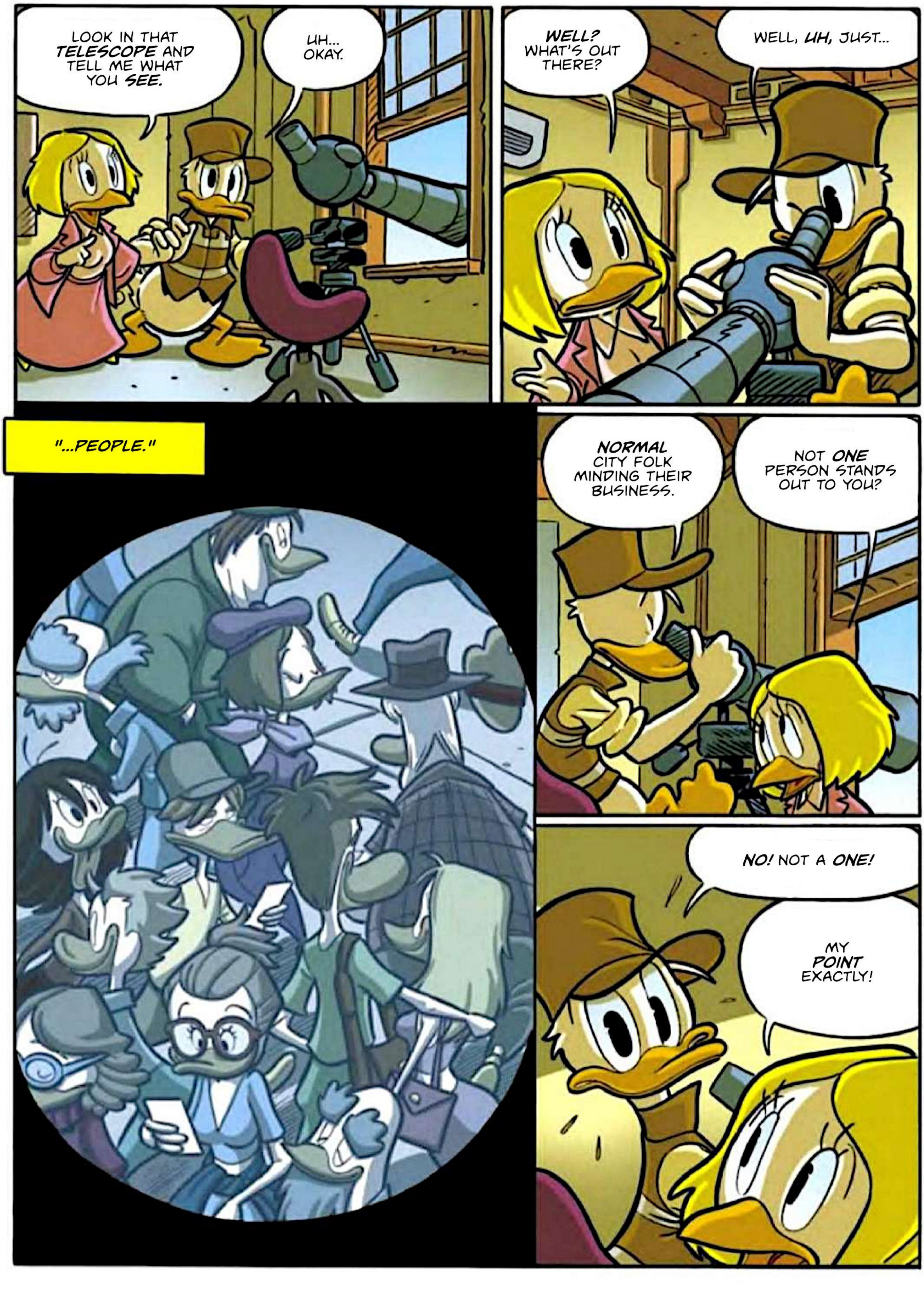

NOT EXACTLY *DRESSED* LIKE AN AGENCY *SPY,* ARE WE?
CUT ME SOME *SLACK!* I HAD TO RUSH OVER FROM MY *STREET SWEEPER* JOB!
WELL, IF YOU WANTED TO BE *INCOGNITO,* YOU'VE *NAILED* IT.
MAYBE I WOULDN'T *NEED* THAT *AND* MY *THREE OTHER* JOBS IF THE AGENCY PAID A *LIVABLE* WAGE!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR PAYCHECK *ANOTHER* TIME. THERE ARE MORE *PRESSING* MATTERS AT HAND.
WAK! ACTINIA *AGAIN?!* WHAT *GIVES,* QWERTY?! I THOUGHT WE *WIPED* 'EM OUT AFTER THE *SUPER-SERVER* FIASCO!*
THAT'S WHAT WE *THOUGHT,* DOUBLEDUCK.
*AGAIN, *"ENEMIES LIKE BEFORE."* CHECK TOPOLINO 3258-3260. -BLUJ

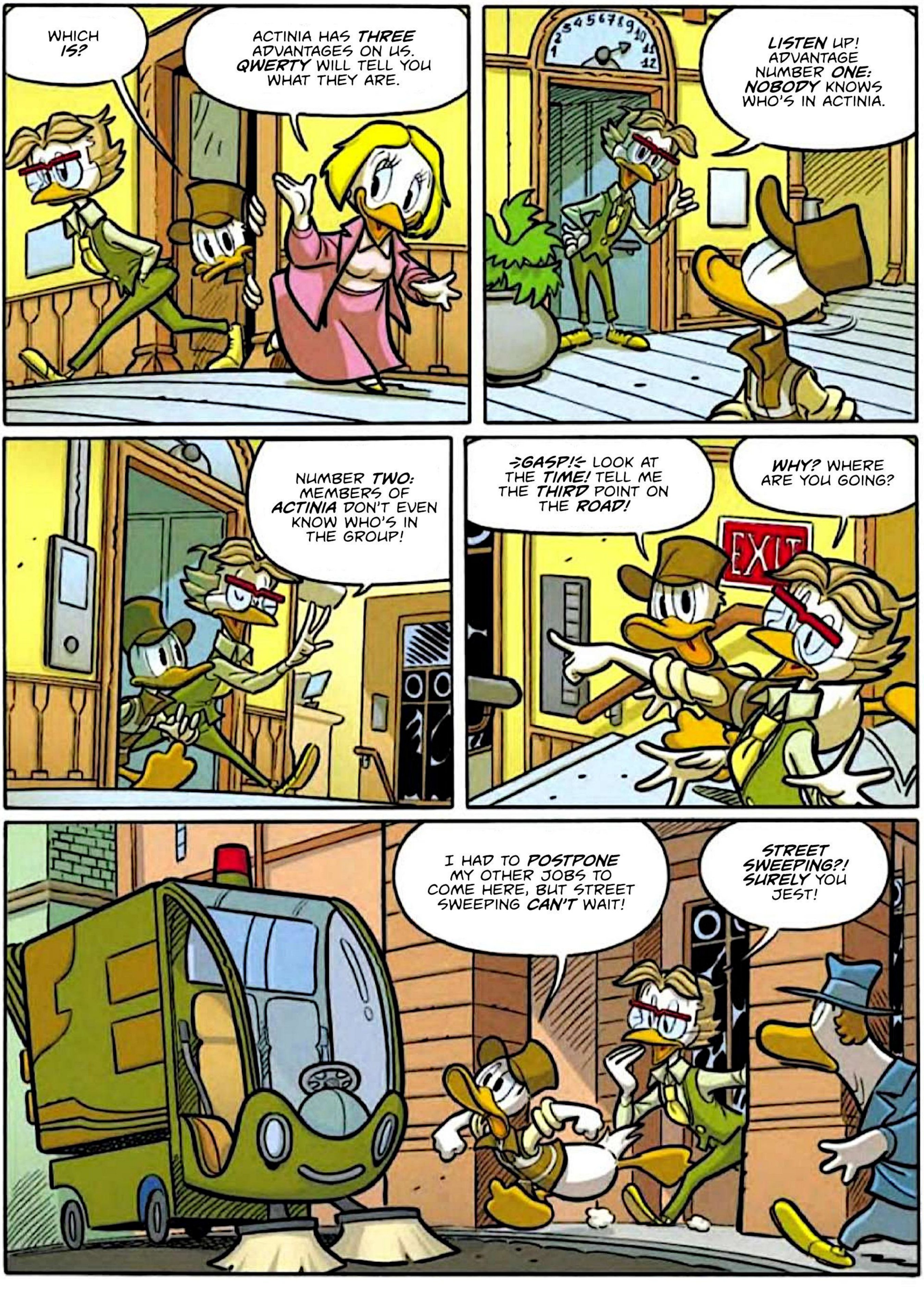

AS IT TURNS OUT, IT WAS ALL A *DECOY!*
A VERY *DECEPTIVE* DECOY.
THEIR *REAL* TARGET WASN'T THE *SERVER.* THEY WERE TRYING TO *DISTRACT* US WHILE THEY FORMULATED THEIR *P.C.T.*
P.C.T.?
WHAT'S *THAT* STAND FOR? *PANINI* WITH *CHEESE* AND *TUNA?*
NO, DD! *PLAN* OF *COMPLETE TERROR!*
P.C.T
REALLY NOW? BUT ACTINIA ONLY HAD *15* MEMBERS. HOW CAN 15 *GOONS* HOLD THE WORLD IN *TERROR?*
THEY AREN'T *JUST* 15 ANYMORE!
"...SINCE WE DEFEATED THEM, THEIR NUMBERS HAVE GROWN TO *109!*"

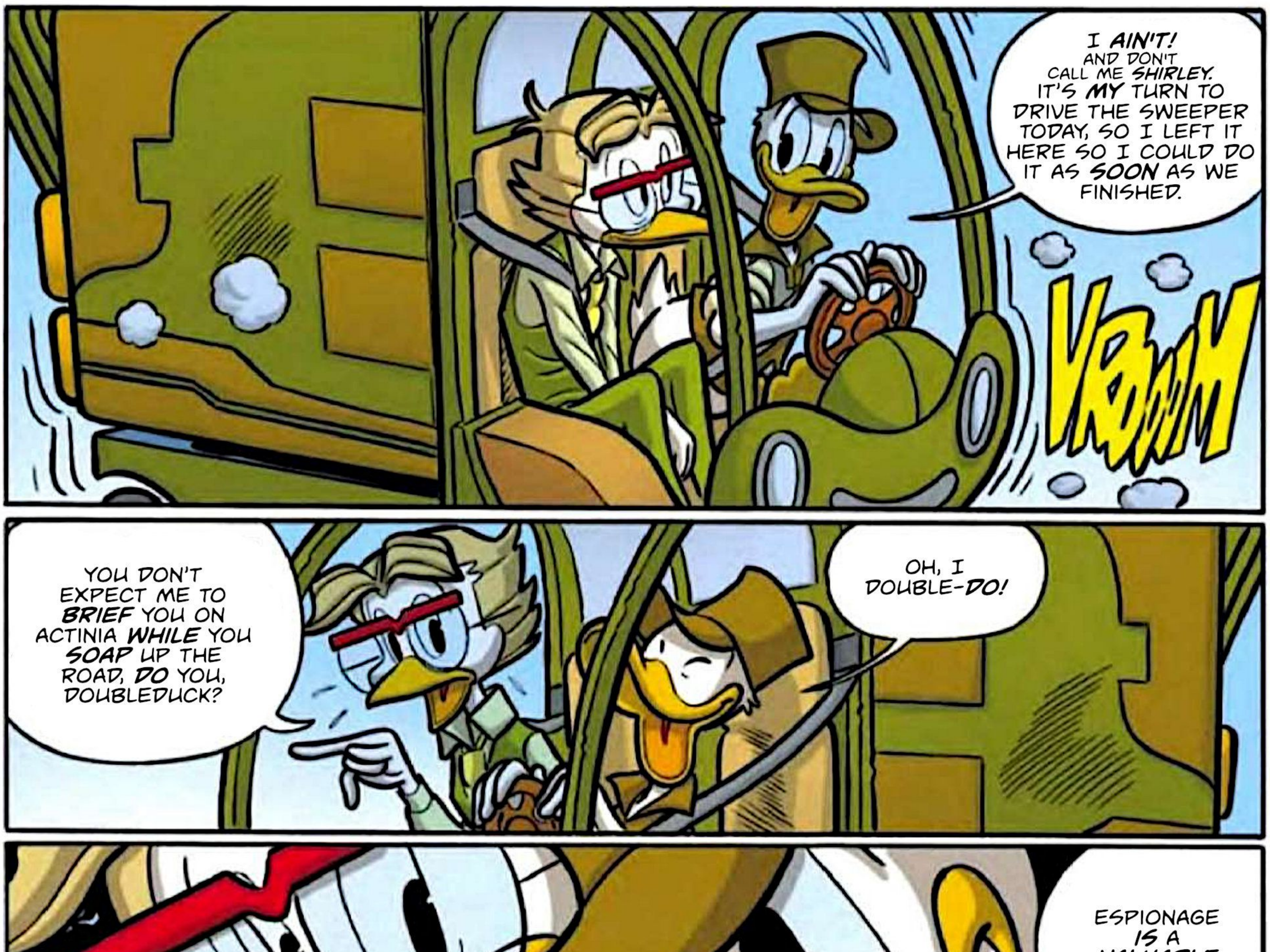

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH INTELLIGENCE ON HAND...
...BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE SURE ISN'T GOOD NEWS.
MEMBERS OF ACTINIA ARE ALREADY ALL AROUND US!
"ONE IS AT THE HEAD OF CALISOTA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUPERBANK..."
LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW PRESIDENT!
TODAY, I'LL PRESENT MY PLAN TO HELP OUR MOST IMPORTANT COMPANIES CLIMB THE STOCK MARKET.
FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUPERBANK
CLAP CLAP
...AND YET ANOTHER HAS SNUCK INTO DUCKBURG'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTER.
ISSAT SO?
AND WHAT'S SCIENCE GOT TO DO WITH US SPIES?
IT'S SIMPLE.

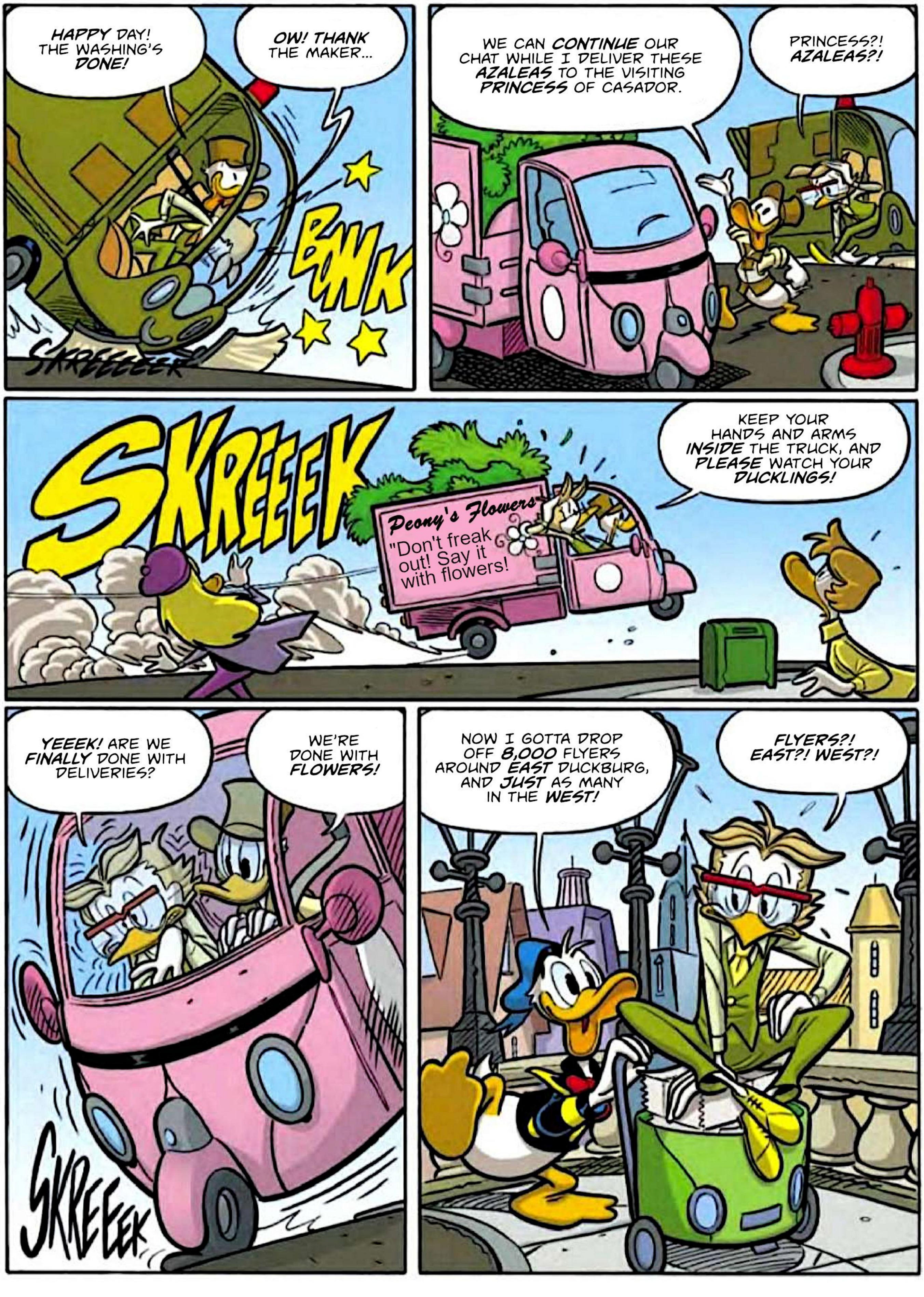

"THEY MAKE THE *TECH* WE *NEED* TO DO OUR *JOB!*"
IDEA! A SUPER *FAST, SILENT, SHAPE-*SHIFTING, *INVISIBLE* CAR! CAN IT BE *DONE?*
SURE! WHY *NOT?*
SOUNDS *RIVETING!*
PAPPENDORF
SAME CASE WITH THE *MEDIA.*
YOU MEAN THE *PAPERS?*
YES, AND *TV!*
"THEY'VE EVEN INFILTRATED THE MOST *POPULAR* INVESTIGATIVE CHANNEL TO..."
...TALK ABOUT *KITTENS!*
BUT WE TALKED ABOUT THAT *YESTERDAY!*
NO, WE TALKED ABOUT *PUPPIES* YESTERDAY.

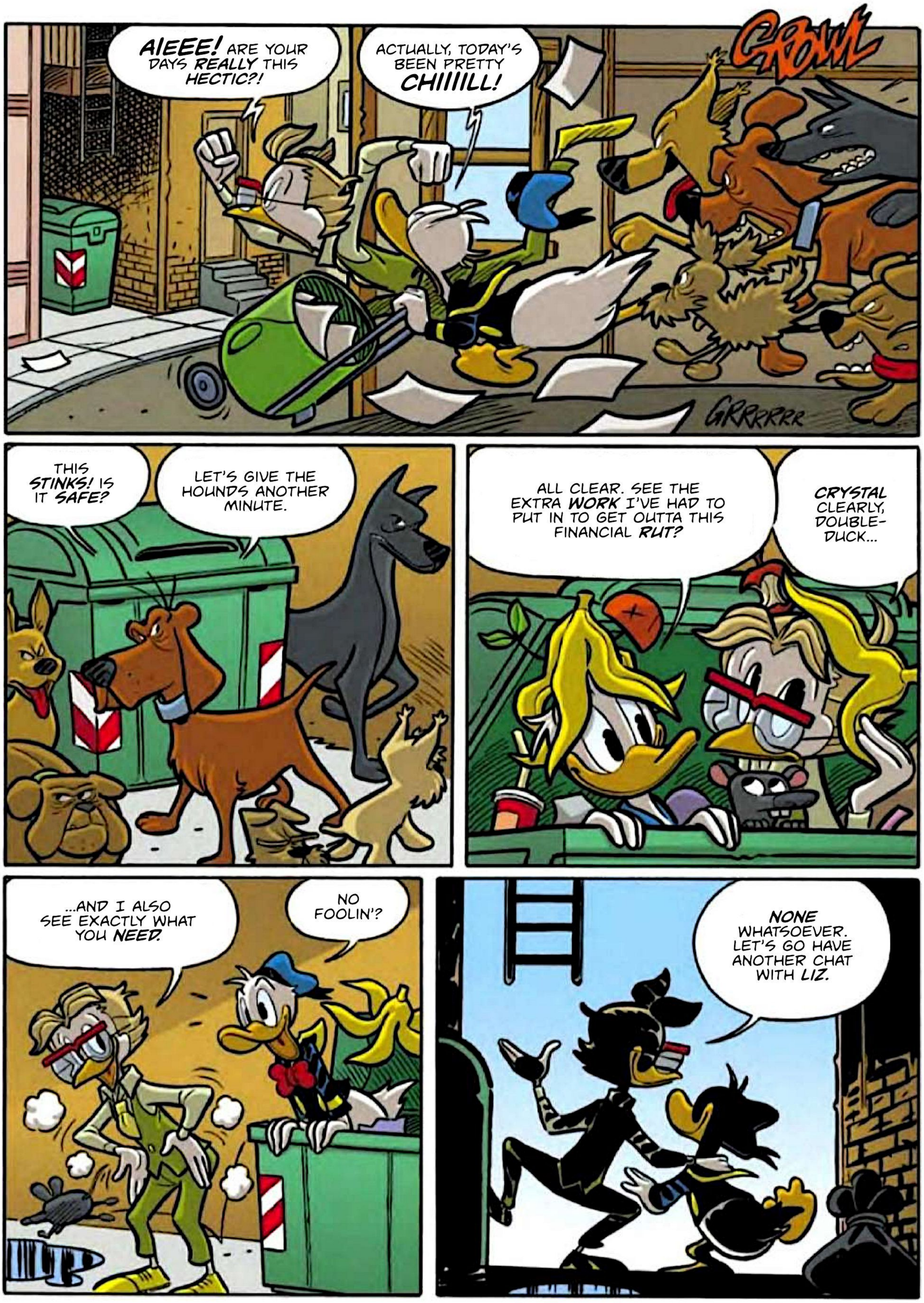

IN SHORT, ACTINIA MEMBERS COULD BE *ANYWHERE!*
SO WHAT'S THE BIG *DEAL?*
THE AGENCY'S SQUASHED *BIGGER* ENEMIES THAN *THIS!*
OKAY, SO HOW DO *YOU* PROPOSE WE TRACK THEM DOWN?
SHOULD WE SEND THEM *FLOWERS* OR LEAVE A *FLYER* IN THEIR MAILBOX?
HMPH! YUK IT UP, QWERTY.
OBSERVATORY
WE JUST NEED TO FIND *ONE* BAD *FISH* IN THIS SEA...
...AND THE *OTHERS* WILL HOP IN THE NET, *NO FUSS!*
I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE *ISSUE,* D.D.

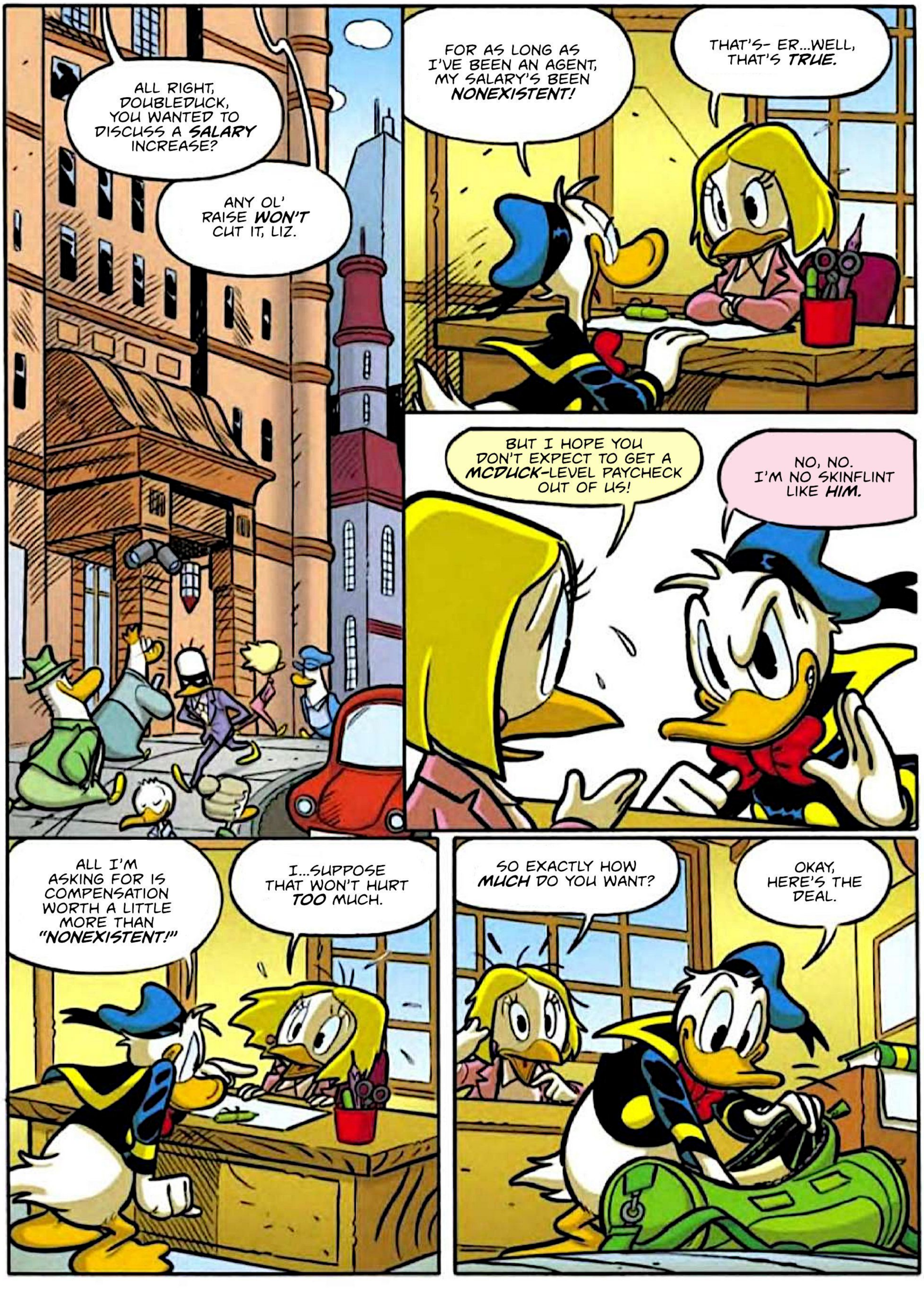

LOOK IN THAT *TELESCOPE* AND TELL ME WHAT YOU *SEE.*
UH... OKAY.
WELL? WHAT'S OUT THERE?
WELL, *UH,* JUST...
"...PEOPLE."
NORMAL CITY FOLK MINDING THEIR BUSINESS.
NOT *ONE* PERSON STANDS OUT TO YOU?
NO! NOT A *ONE!*
MY *POINT* EXACTLY!

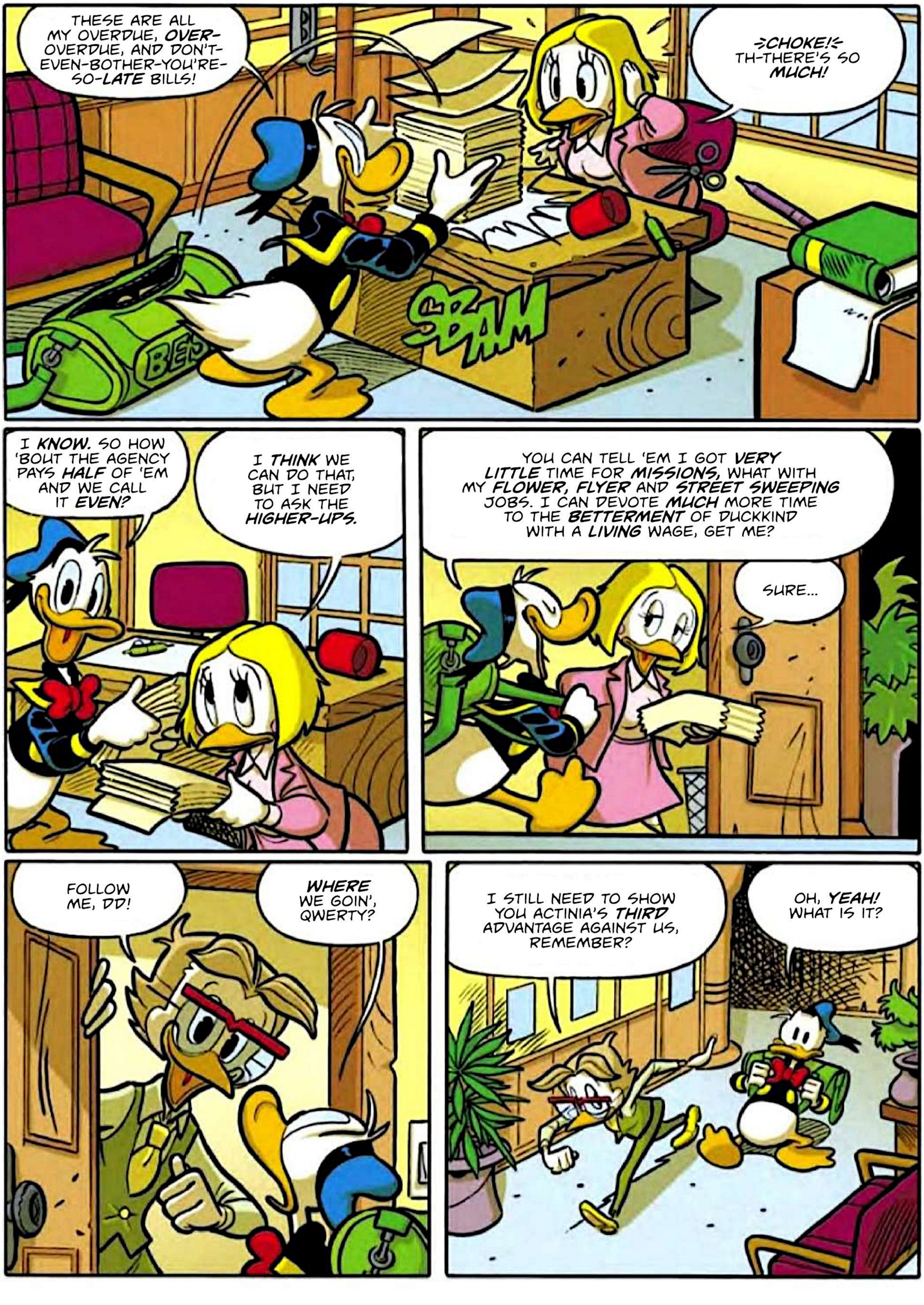

WHICH *IS?*
ACTINIA HAS *THREE* ADVANTAGES ON US. *QWERTY* WILL TELL YOU WHAT THEY ARE.
LISTEN UP! ADVANTAGE NUMBER *ONE: NOBODY* KNOWS WHO'S IN ACTINIA.
NUMBER *TWO:* MEMBERS OF *ACTINIA* DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO'S IN THE GROUP!
GASP! LOOK AT THE *TIME!* TELL ME THE *THIRD* POINT ON THE *ROAD!*
EXIT
WHY? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAD TO *POSTPONE* MY OTHER JOBS TO COME HERE, BUT STREET SWEEPING *CAN'T* WAIT!
STREET SWEEPING?! SURELY YOU JEST!

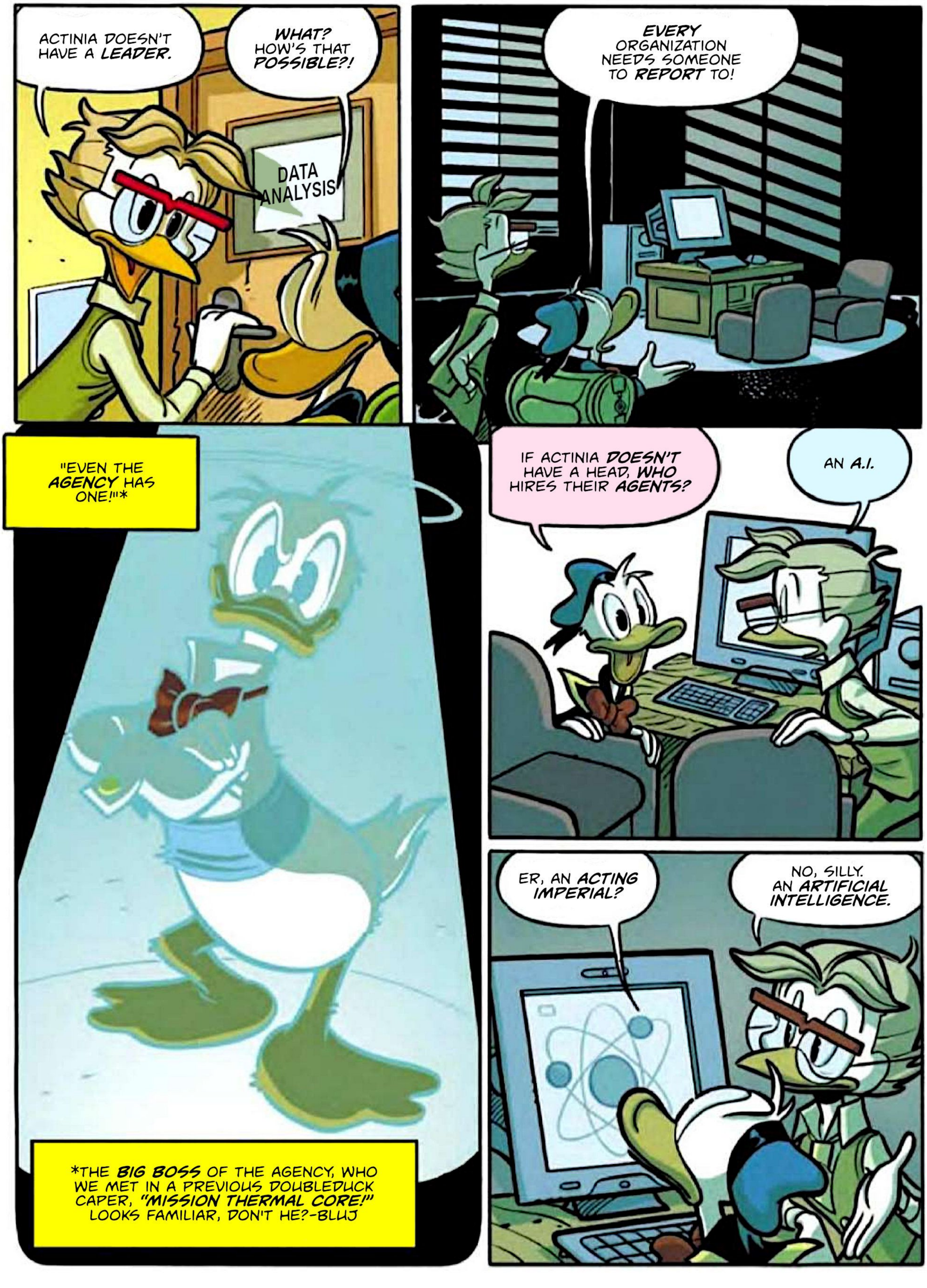

I AIN'T! AND DON'T CALL ME SHIRLEY. IT'S MY TURN TO DRIVE THE SWEEPER TODAY, SO I LEFT IT HERE SO I COULD DO IT AS SOON AS WE FINISHED.
VROOM
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BRIEF YOU ON ACTINIA WHILE YOU SOAP UP THE ROAD, DO YOU, DOUBLEDUCK?
OH, I DOUBLE-DO!
ESPIONAGE IS A VALUABLE INDUSTRY...
...BUT I'D ARGUE URBAN MAINTENANCE IS MORE IMPORTANT! AND NOISY!
SPLOSH
SKREEEEK

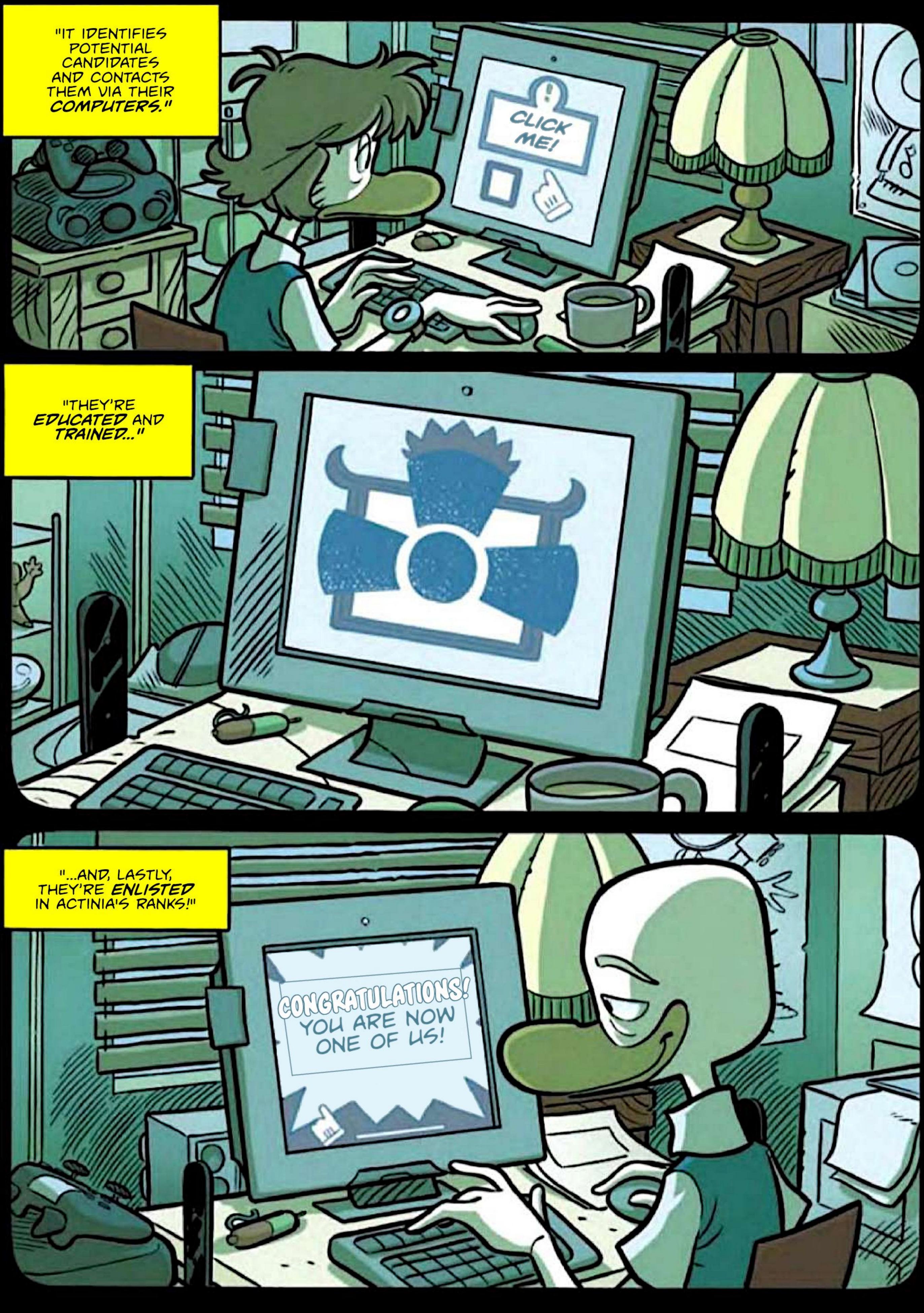

HAPPY DAY! THE WASHING'S DONE!
OW! THANK THE MAKER...
BONK
SKREEEEEEK
WE CAN CONTINUE OUR CHAT WHILE I DELIVER THESE AZALEAS TO THE VISITING PRINCESS OF CASADOR.
PRINCESS?! AZALEAS?!
SKREEEEK
Peony's Flowers
"Don't freak out! Say it with flowers!
KEEP YOUR HANDS AND ARMS INSIDE THE TRUCK, AND PLEASE WATCH YOUR DUCKLINGS!
YEEEK! ARE WE FINALLY DONE WITH DELIVERIES?
WE'RE DONE WITH FLOWERS!
SKREEEEK
NOW I GOTTA DROP OFF 8,000 FLYERS AROUND EAST DUCKBURG, AND JUST AS MANY IN THE WEST!
FLYERS?! EAST?! WEST?!

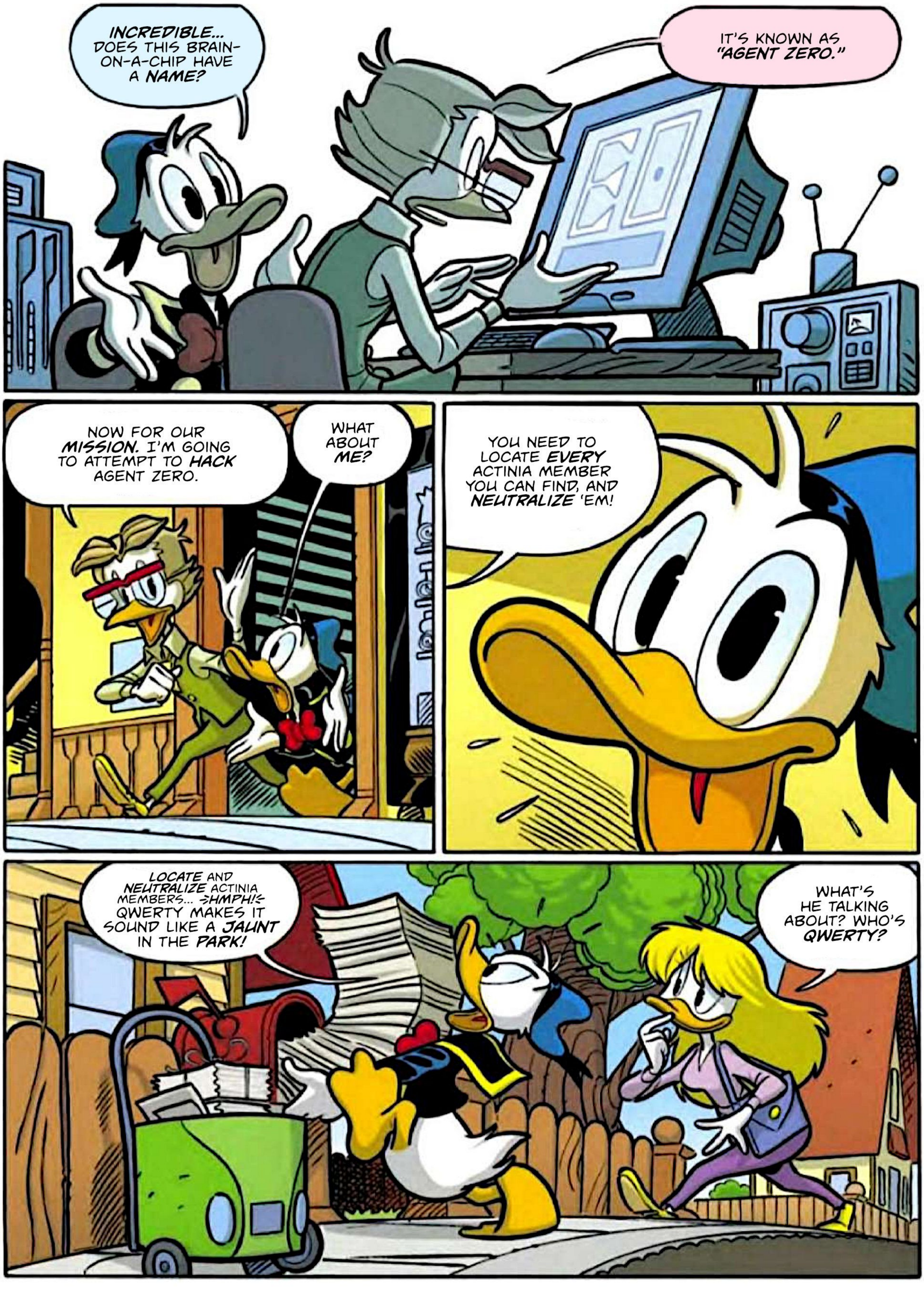

AIEEE! ARE YOUR DAYS REALLY THIS HECTIC?!
ACTUALLY, TODAY'S BEEN PRETTY CHIIIILL!
GROWL
GRRRRRR
THIS STINKS! IS IT SAFE?
LET'S GIVE THE HOUNDS ANOTHER MINUTE.
ALL CLEAR. SEE THE EXTRA WORK I'VE HAD TO PUT IN TO GET OUTTA THIS FINANCIAL RUT?
CRYSTAL CLEARLY, DOUBLE-DUCK...
...AND I ALSO SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.
NO FOOLIN'?
NONE WHATSOEVER. LET'S GO HAVE ANOTHER CHAT WITH LIZ.

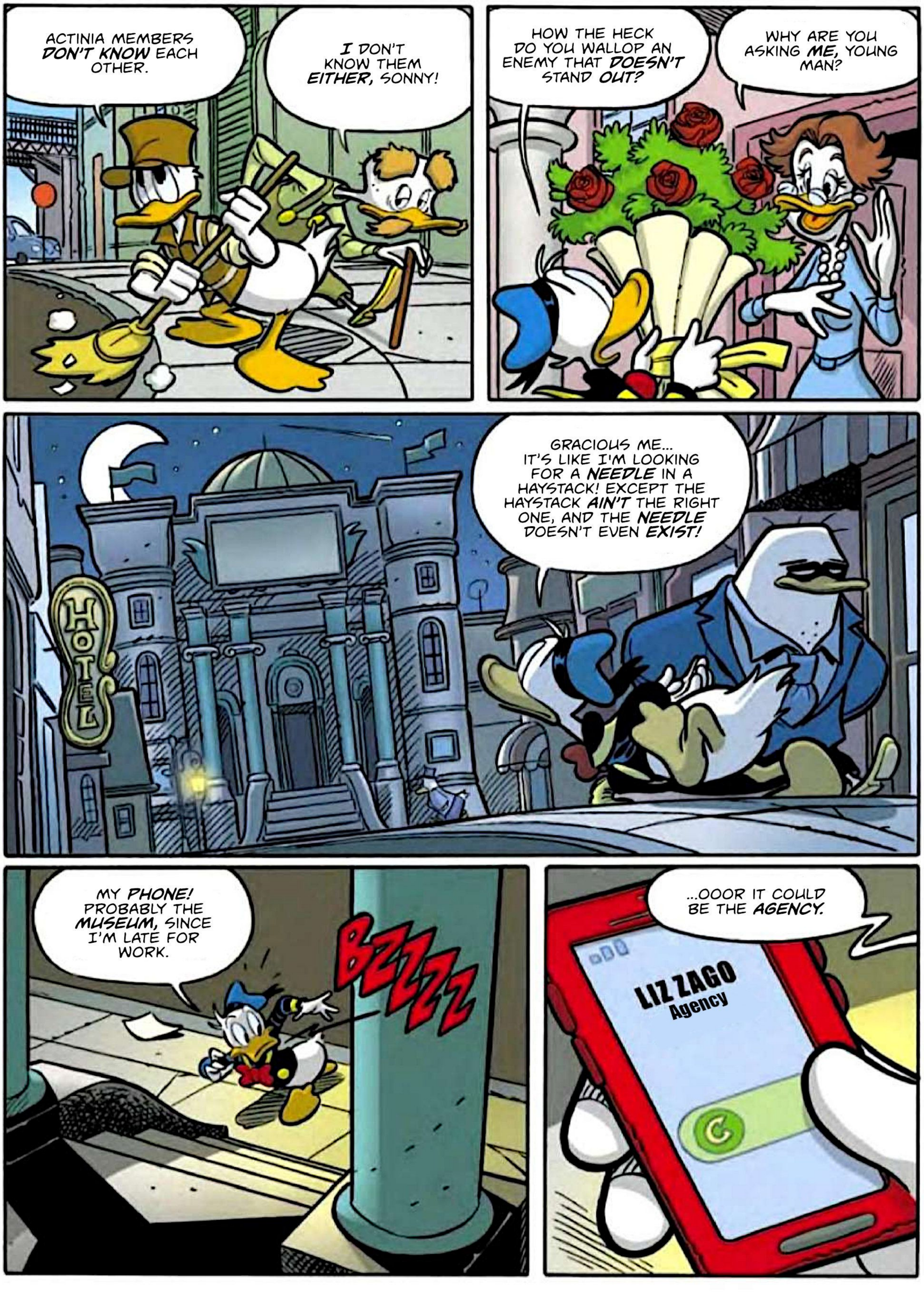

ALL RIGHT, DOUBLEDUCK, YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS A **SALARY** INCREASE?
ANY OL' RAISE **WON'T** CUT IT, LIZ.
FOR AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN AN AGENT, MY SALARY'S BEEN **NONEXISTENT!**
THAT'S- ER...WELL, THAT'S **TRUE.**
BUT I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT TO GET A **MCDUCK**-LEVEL PAYCHECK OUT OF US!
NO, NO. I'M NO SKINFLINT LIKE **HIM.**
ALL I'M ASKING FOR IS COMPENSATION WORTH A LITTLE MORE THAN "**NONEXISTENT!**"
I...SUPPOSE THAT WON'T HURT **TOO** MUCH.
SO EXACTLY HOW **MUCH** DO YOU WANT?
OKAY, HERE'S THE DEAL.

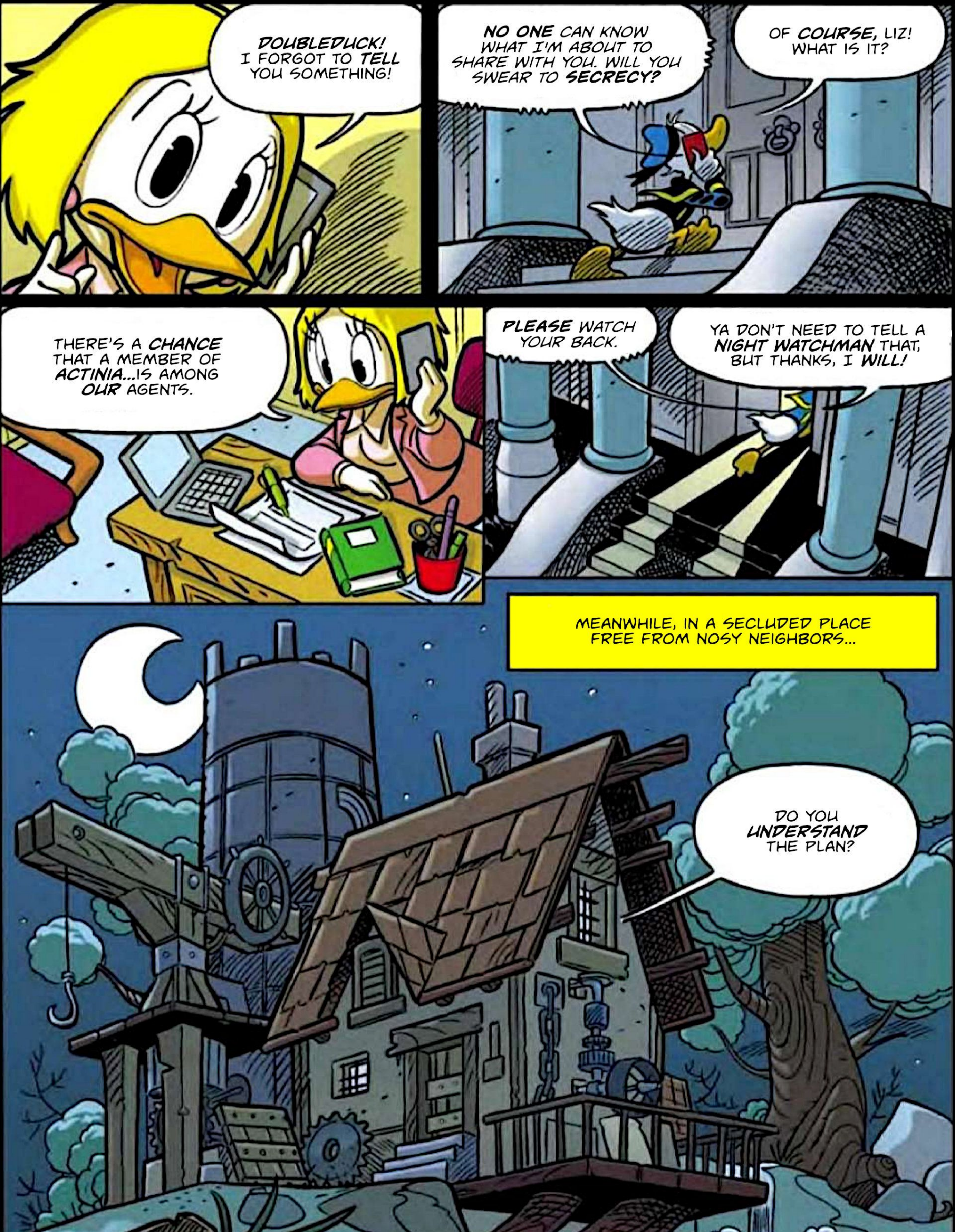

THESE ARE ALL MY OVERDUE, OVER-OVERDUE, AND DON'T-EVEN-BOTHER-YOU'RE-SO-LATE BILLS!
>CHOKE!< TH-THERE'S SO MUCH!
SBAM
BES
I KNOW. SO HOW 'BOUT THE AGENCY PAYS HALF OF 'EM AND WE CALL IT EVEN?
I THINK WE CAN DO THAT, BUT I NEED TO ASK THE HIGHER-UPS.
YOU CAN TELL 'EM I GOT VERY LITTLE TIME FOR MISSIONS, WHAT WITH MY FLOWER, FLYER AND STREET SWEEPING JOBS. I CAN DEVOTE MUCH MORE TIME TO THE BETTERMENT OF DUCKKIND WITH A LIVING WAGE, GET ME?
SURE...
FOLLOW ME, DD!
WHERE WE GOIN', QWERTY?
I STILL NEED TO SHOW YOU ACTINIA'S THIRD ADVANTAGE AGAINST US, REMEMBER?
OH, YEAH! WHAT IS IT?

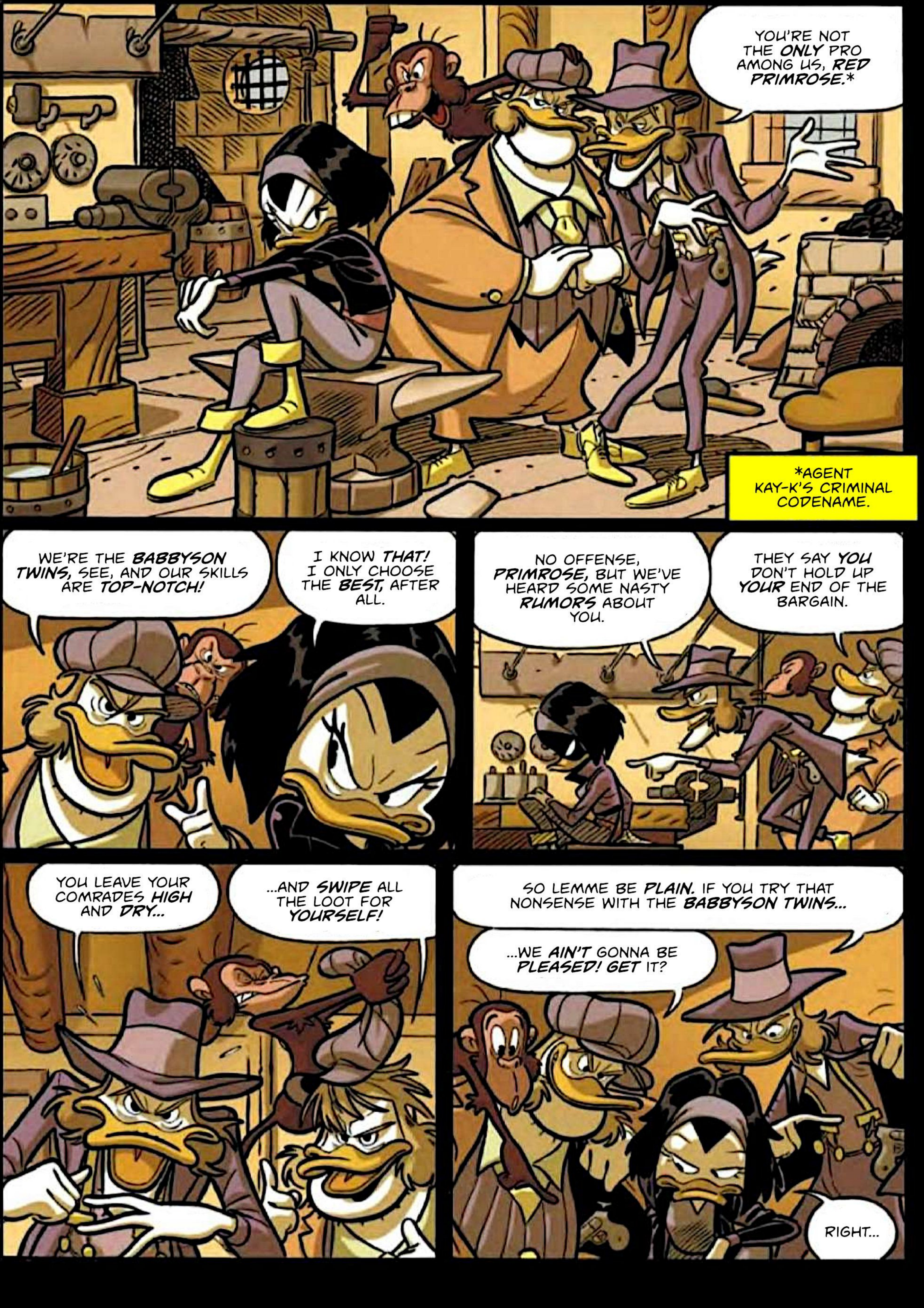

ACTINIA DOESN'T HAVE A *LEADER.*
WHAT? HOW'S THAT *POSSIBLE?!*
DATA ANALYSIS
EVERY ORGANIZATION NEEDS SOMEONE TO *REPORT* TO!
"EVEN THE *AGENCY* HAS ONE!"*
*THE *BIG BOSS* OF THE AGENCY, WHO WE MET IN A PREVIOUS DOUBLEDUCK CAPER, *"MISSION THERMAL CORE!"* LOOKS FAMILIAR, DON'T HE?-BLUJ
IF ACTINIA *DOESN'T* HAVE A HEAD, *WHO* HIRES THEIR *AGENTS?*
AN *A.I.*
ER, AN *ACTING IMPERIAL?*
NO, SILLY. AN *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.*

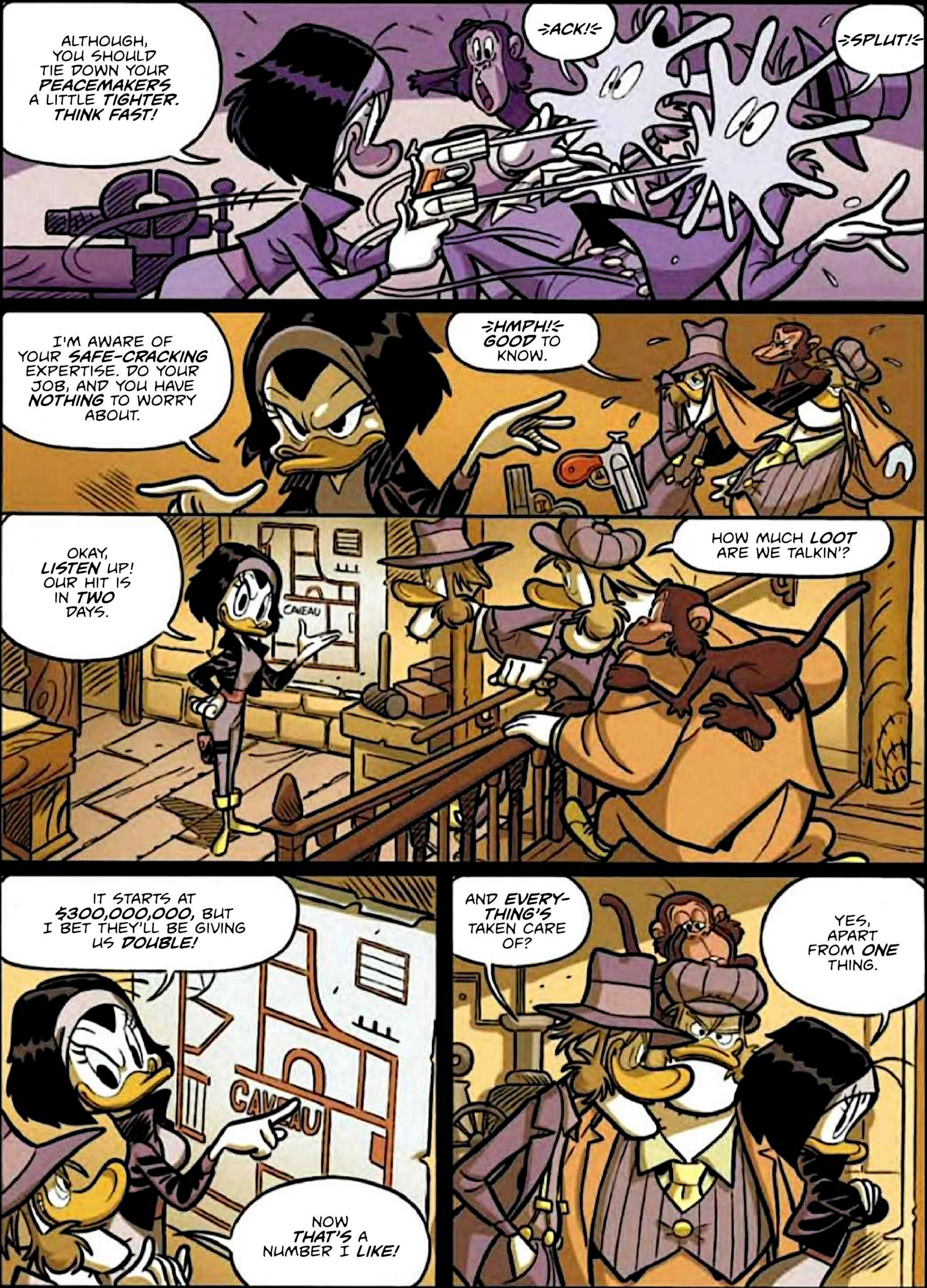

"IT IDENTIFIES POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AND CONTACTS THEM VIA THEIR *COMPUTERS.*"
CLICK ME!
"THEY'RE *EDUCATED* AND *TRAINED...*"
"...AND, LASTLY, THEY'RE *ENLISTED* IN ACTINIA'S RANKS!"
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE NOW ONE OF US!

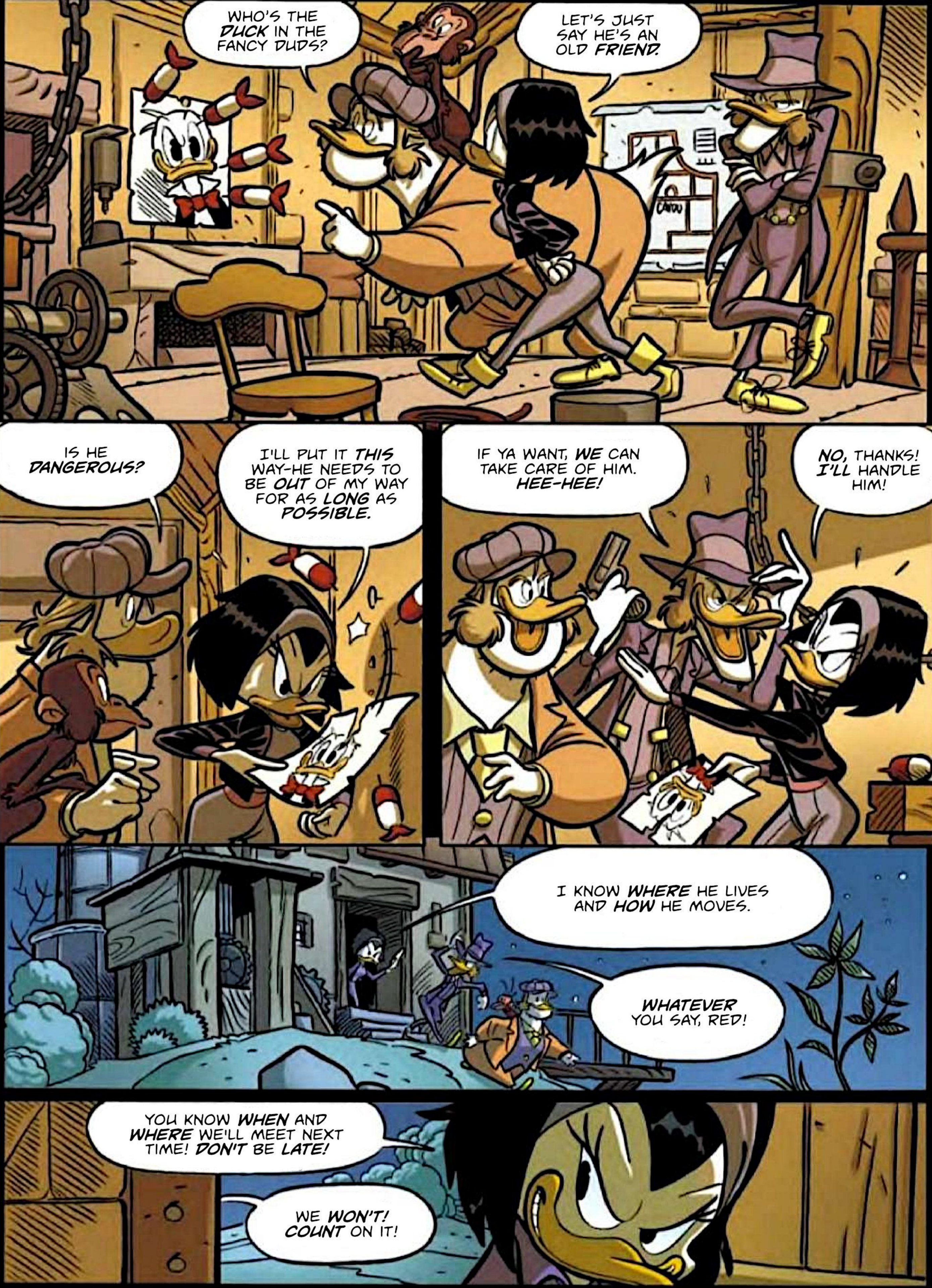

INCREDIBLE... DOES THIS BRAIN-ON-A-CHIP HAVE A NAME?
IT'S KNOWN AS "AGENT ZERO."
NOW FOR OUR MISSION. I'M GOING TO ATTEMPT TO HACK AGENT ZERO.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU NEED TO LOCATE EVERY ACTINIA MEMBER YOU CAN FIND, AND NEUTRALIZE 'EM!
LOCATE AND NEUTRALIZE ACTINIA MEMBERS... HMPH! QWERTY MAKES IT SOUND LIKE A JAUNT IN THE PARK!
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? WHO'S QWERTY?

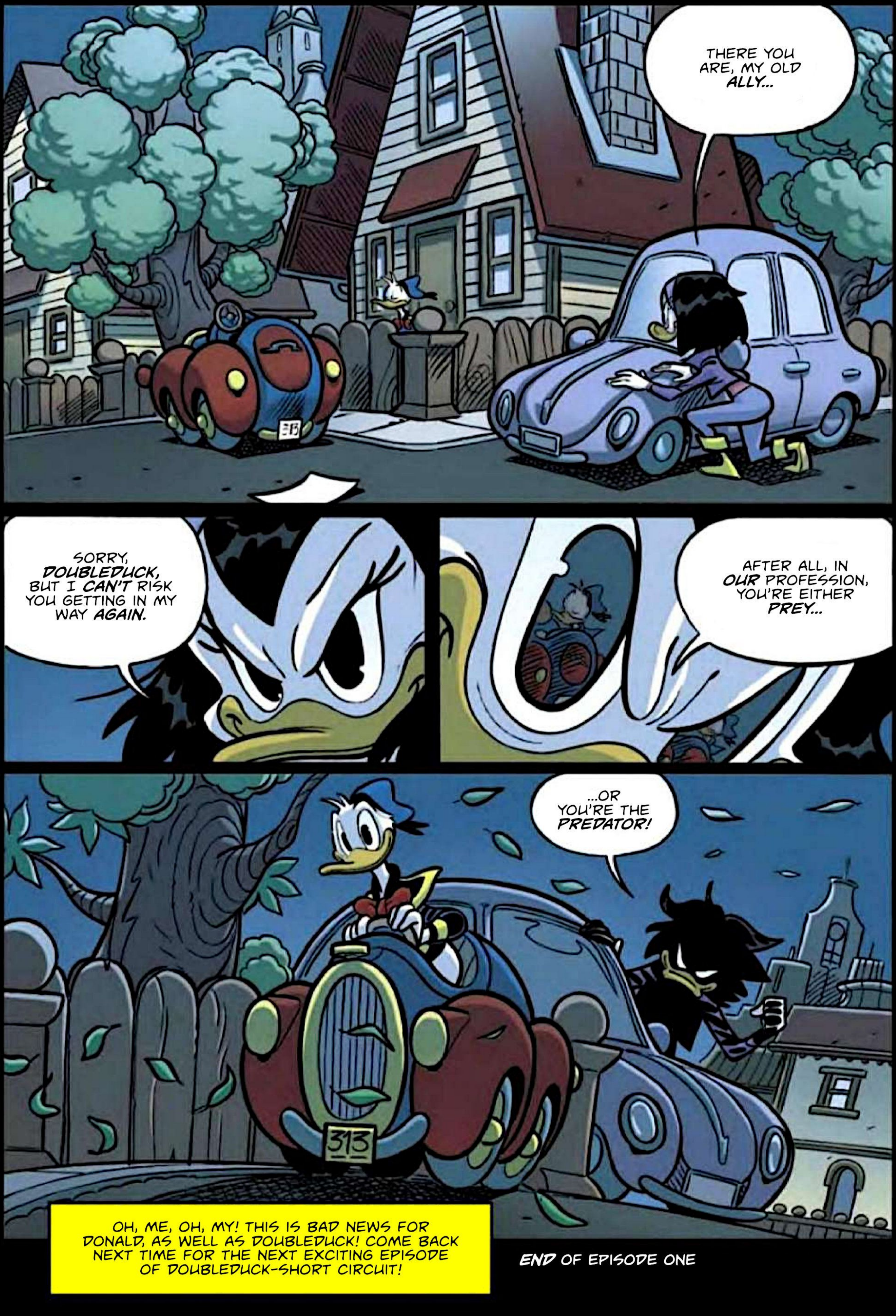

ACTINIA MEMBERS *DON'T KNOW* EACH OTHER.
I DON'T KNOW THEM *EITHER,* SONNY!
HOW THE HECK DO YOU WALLOP AN ENEMY THAT *DOESN'T* STAND *OUT?*
WHY ARE YOU ASKING *ME,* YOUNG MAN?
GRACIOUS ME... IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING FOR A *NEEDLE* IN A HAYSTACK! EXCEPT THE HAYSTACK *AIN'T* THE RIGHT ONE, AND THE *NEEDLE* DOESN'T EVEN *EXIST!*
HOTEL
MY *PHONE!* PROBABLY THE *MUSEUM,* SINCE I'M LATE FOR WORK.
BZZZZ
...OOOR IT COULD BE THE *AGENCY.*
LIZ ZAGO
Agency


DOUBLEDUCK! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
NO ONE CAN KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHARE WITH YOU. WILL YOU SWEAR TO SECRECY?
OF COURSE, LIZ! WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT A MEMBER OF ACTINIA...IS AMONG OUR AGENTS.
PLEASE WATCH YOUR BACK.
YA DON'T NEED TO TELL A NIGHT WATCHMAN THAT, BUT THANKS, I WILL!
MEANWHILE, IN A SECLUDED PLACE FREE FROM NOSY NEIGHBORS...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE PLAN?


YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY PRO AMONG US, RED PRIMROSE.*
*AGENT KAY-K'S CRIMINAL CODENAME.
WE'RE THE BABBYSON TWINS, SEE, AND OUR SKILLS ARE TOP-NOTCH!
I KNOW THAT! I ONLY CHOOSE THE BEST, AFTER ALL.
NO OFFENSE, PRIMROSE, BUT WE'VE HEARD SOME NASTY RUMORS ABOUT YOU.
THEY SAY YOU DON'T HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
YOU LEAVE YOUR COMRADES HIGH AND DRY...
...AND SWIPE ALL THE LOOT FOR YOURSELF!
SO LEMME BE PLAIN. IF YOU TRY THAT NONSENSE WITH THE BABBYSON TWINS...
...WE AIN'T GONNA BE PLEASED! GET IT?
RIGHT...


ALTHOUGH, YOU SHOULD TIE DOWN YOUR PEACEMAKERS A LITTLE TIGHTER. THINK FAST!
ACK!
SPLUT!
I'M AWARE OF YOUR SAFE-CRACKING EXPERTISE. DO YOUR JOB, AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
HMPH! GOOD TO KNOW.
OKAY, LISTEN UP! OUR HIT IS IN TWO DAYS.
CAVEAU
HOW MUCH LOOT ARE WE TALKIN'?
IT STARTS AT $300,000,000, BUT I BET THEY'LL BE GIVING US DOUBLE!
CAVEAU
NOW THAT'S A NUMBER I LIKE!
AND EVERYTHING'S TAKEN CARE OF?
YES, APART FROM ONE THING.


WHO'S THE DUCK IN THE FANCY DUDS?
LET'S JUST SAY HE'S AN OLD FRIEND.
IS HE DANGEROUS?
I'LL PUT IT THIS WAY-HE NEEDS TO BE OUT OF MY WAY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
IF YA WANT, WE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM. HEE-HEE!
NO, THANKS! I'LL HANDLE HIM!
I KNOW WHERE HE LIVES AND HOW HE MOVES.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, RED!
YOU KNOW WHEN AND WHERE WE'LL MEET NEXT TIME! DON'T BE LATE!
WE WON'T! COUNT ON IT!


THERE YOU ARE, MY OLD **ALLY...**
SORRY, **DOUBLEDUCK,** BUT I **CAN'T** RISK YOU GETTING IN MY WAY **AGAIN.**
AFTER ALL, IN **OUR** PROFESSION, YOU'RE EITHER **PREY...**
...OR YOU'RE THE **PREDATOR!**
313
OH, ME, OH, MY! THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR DONALD, AS WELL AS DOUBLEDUCK! COME BACK NEXT TIME FOR THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODE OF DOUBLEDUCK–SHORT CIRCUIT!
END OF EPISODE ONE